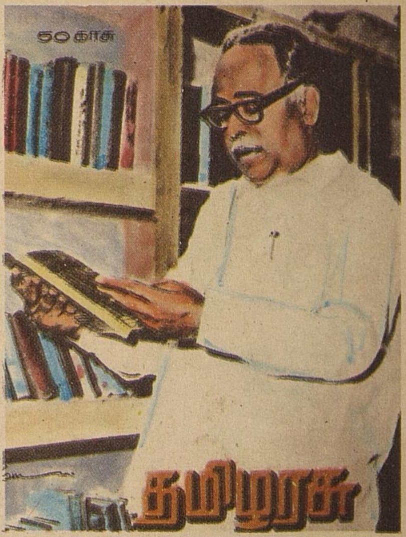


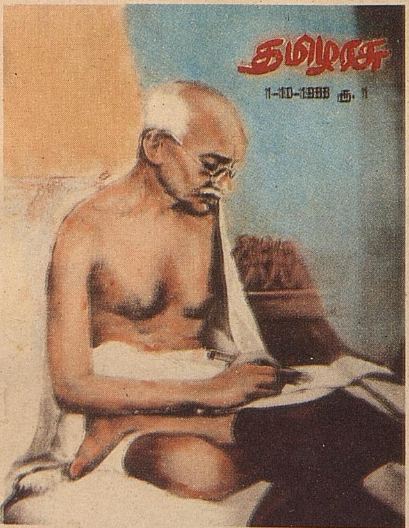

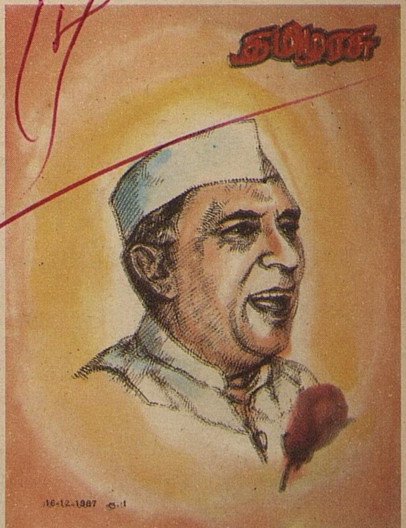

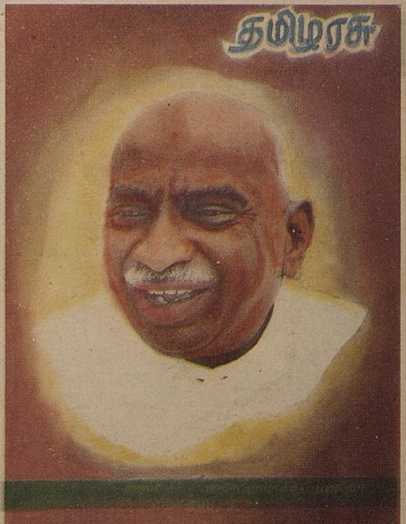


THANJAVUR MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S SARASWATHI MAHAL LIBRARY SOTY.
THANJAVUR.
22 JUL 1989

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the Dindigul Quaid-e-Millath District on 11th June 1989.

# TAMIL ARASU

*A monthly Journal of the Government of Tamil Nadu*

**Thiruvalluvar Year 2020**

**July 1989**


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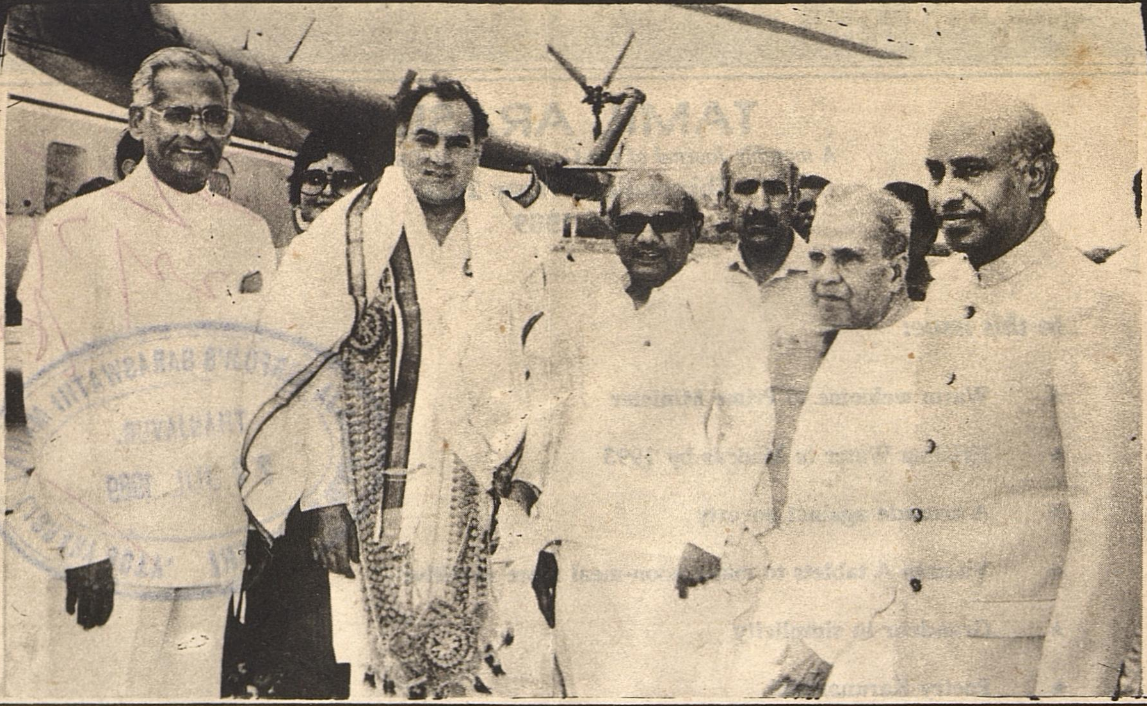
## 'Tamil Arasu'

*after completing 19 years of commendable service*

*enters a new era!*

*From a prestigious past*

*To a glorious future!*

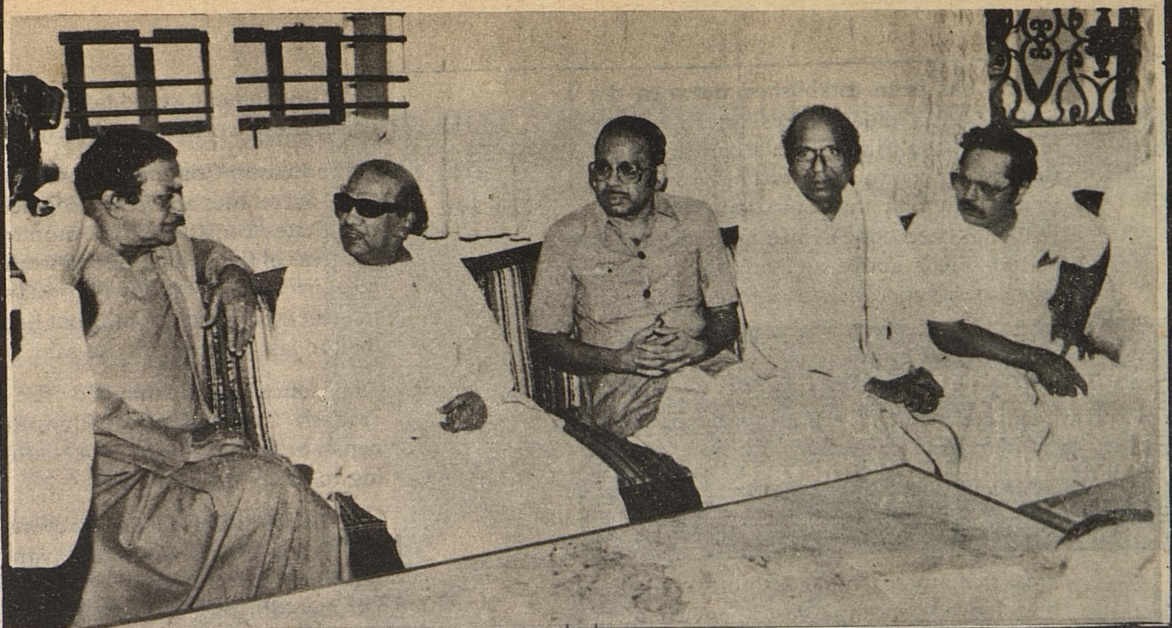


## Warm Welcome to PRIME MINISTER at Airport.

The Prime Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, was given a warm welcome at the Meenambakkam airport when he arrived here on 15th June 1989 by a special IAF helicopter from Tirupati for a brief halt on his way to Patna.

He was received by the Governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander, the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the former Kerala Governor, Thiru P. Ramachandran, the Chief Secretary, Thiru M.M. Rajendran, the Director General of Police, Thiru B.P. Rengaswamy and others.

Thiru Rajiv Gandhi walked around the VIP shamiana, acknowledging the greetings and then emplaned for Patna by a special IAF Boeing.



# Krishna Water to Madras By 1993

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Dr. Karunanidhi, on June 18, 1989 said that the discussions between him and Ghief Miister of Andhra Pradesh Thiru N. T. Rama Rao, at Hyderabad, were fruitful in that the pattern of funding by both the Governments for the Telugu Ganga Project has been agreed upon and a time frame for its completion spelt out.

The decision would positively help in expediting the project which was the only long term solution to the water supply problem in Madras, he said.

In a statement on his return from Hyderabad the Chief Minister explained the background to the discussion and how he was able to end the stalemate on the implementation of the scheme.

A massive combined irrigation and water supply Project.

According to the statement the Telugu Ganga Project, based on a bilateral agreement between the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in April 1983, is a massive combined irrigation and water supply project aimed at supplying 12 tmcft of water at the Tamil Nadu border.

The project is currently estimated to cost Rs. 870 crores with Tamil Nadu's share being Rs. 251 crores. This includes all arrangements needed to transfer water from Krishna river at Srisailam to Pennar at Somasila, from Somasila to Kandaleru reservoir and thereon to Poondi reservoir in Tamil Nadu. The Project involves a total length of 392 km. consisting of 170 km from Srisailam to Somasila, 45 km from Somasila to Kandaleru and 17 km fromKandaleru to Poondi.

At the time of its inauguration in 1983, the Tamil Nadu Government had paid Rs. 30 crores as advance. A sum of 17 crores was paid in 1985 bringing the total to Rs. 47 crores.

Andhra Pradesh has been insisting that Tamil Nadu pay Rs. 133 crores, the difference between Rs. 180 crores as set out to in the agreement and the payment already made. Further, Tamil Nadu share of expenditure incurred as at the end of 1988 is Rs. 74 crores-Rs. 27 crores more than the payment made.

> **Dravida Ganga**
>
> "It would have been more appropriate to call the project 'Dravida Ganga' because the three States have agreed to give Krishna water to a fourth State."
>
> -Dr. M. Karunanidhi,
> *Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu*

Stalemate because of delay in payment

The delay in payment was affecting the progress of the project and a sort of stalemate had set in. It was very clear that unless Tamil Nadu gave the overdues and advanced further amount as envisaged in the agreement, the completion of the project would be put off resulting in cost escalation.

Substantial work has already been done.

A link has been established between the Krishna and Pennar valleys, after the completion of the Mittakondala cutting. More than 50 per cent of the work has been done in the Velugodu and Kandaleru reservoirs. Work has been done in intermittent reaches in the canals above and below Somasila. Since these two canals pass through forests areas in many reaches, continuity could not be achieved pending forest in environment clearance from the Centre, which could be obtained only in late 1988. Since then excavations have been started in many reaches in the forest areas also.

*Press*: Will the State pay interest on the arrears of Payment?

***C.M.*: Yes, with people's interest.**

Breaking the Stalemate

With a view to completing the project earlier, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu met the Andhra Pradesh counterpart at Hyderabad on June 18 and had discussions on the project programme with officials of both states participating. The discussions were cordial.Dr. M. Karunanidhi explained his anxiety to get the project completed and receive water in Madras as early as possible.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh explained as to how he had given top priority for the project all along and pleaded that unless both the Governments stretched their efforts to mobilise resources, there is no way of shortening the completion period.

Tamil Nadu to pay Rs.60 crores

After a discussion, it was decided that Tamil Nadu will advance a further sum of Rs. 30 crores immediately towards its share of expenditure already incurred and provide for another advance of Rs. 30 crores by the end of this financial year (1989-90). The project tempo will thus be built up and in the succeeding year the Tamil Nadu Government will be advancing its share of expenditure as it is incurred as envisaged in the agreement. It was also decided that with this pattern of flow of funds, all the essential components of work required to bring water to Madras will be completed by March 1993.

Distribution cost

Talking to newsmen, the Chief Minister said it would cost Rs. 65 crores for the State Government to bring the water from Andhra Pradesh border to Madras, and another Rs. 400 crores for treatment and distribution. The Government would take steps for launching these works immediately.

The Liaison Committee consisting of the PWD Secretaries and Chief Engineers of the two States constituted for monitoring the progress of the Telugu Ganga works, would meet in Somasila on July 6. It was supposed to meet every three months but had not met for the last three years, he said.

He once again thanked the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and officials on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu for helping to break the Stalemate.

In the talks. Thiru Rama Rao was assisted by Thiru Anam Ramanarayan Reddi, Minister for Public Works, while Dr. Karunanidhi was assisted by Thiru Durai Murugan, PWD Minister Thiru N. Veerasami, Food Minister, and Thiru Murasoli Maran M.P.

The Tamil Nadu official team comprised Thiru S. Guhan, Adviser, Thiru Narayanan, Finance Secretary, Thiru Sankara Subbayyan, PWD Secretary, Thiru Mohan Krishnan, Chairman of Experts Committee, Thiru Sethuraman, PWD Chief Engineer, and Thiru Manikavachagam, Special Officer for 'Krishna Water'.

The Andhra Pradesh team consisted of Thiru G.R. Nair, Chief Secretary, Thiru S. Santhanam, Additional Chief Secretary Thiru K. Subrahmanyam, Principal Secretary (Irrigation) Thiru P. L. Sanjeeva Reddi, Secretary to the Chief Minister and Thiru Sivaramakrishniah, Irrigation Consultant.

**An agreement which was reached in 20 minutes.**

"It is an outstanding example in inter-state co-operation which should be a model for others. Bhagiratha had to struggle hard to bring Ganga but we were able to bring Krishna waters without much difficulty."

**-Dr. M. Karunanidhi,**
*Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu*

Schemes like the free distribution of rice to the poor were only palliative in nature and the Government was now working out major schemes to remove the causes of poverty and prevent the disease, the Chief Minister, Dr.M. Karunanidhi, said on 2nd June.

The employment generation programme, announced in his party's election manifesto, was now being chalked out and his government was committed to providing employment to 25,000 people in the first year.

Distributing five kg of free rice to card holders with an income of below Rs. 300 a month at a function in South Boag Road in connection with his 66th birthday celebrations, the Chief Minister explained that the rationale behind the employment scheme was to generate jobs for at least two educated unemployed in the 12,000 odd panchayats in Tamil Nadu. The scheme was being formulated.

# A Crusade against poverty

The Chief Minister said the Government had to provide the palliatives before dealing with the roots of the disease through long-term solutions. It was for the purpose that free distribution of rice on five occasions in the year, free clothes for a festival and the nutritious meal scheme were being implemented by the Government.

On the criticism in some quarters about tagging on the free rice scheme with his birthday, he said he had objected to it but the Food Minister insisted that it was for the Chief Minister and a people's leader. "I did not want to come in the way of the poor getting another five kg of rice free", he said.

The Chief Minister said he had recently discussed with the officials the reasons for the prevalence of polio despite the immunisation programme and was told that the oral polio vaccine became ineffective at times. A 'cold chain' had to be maintained to keep up its efficacy. He had told the officials to prepare a scheme for the purpose.

The Food Minister, Thiru N. Veerasami, said 82,65,012 family cardholders out of the 1.29 crores in the State were being given five kg of rice free five times in a year. Though the DMK had promised free supply only thrice in a year in its election manifesto, the Government had decided to increase it to five. Three festivals-Tamil New Year, Deepavali and Pongal and the birthdays of Perarignar Anna and Dr. M. Karunanidhi, had been chosen for the free supply.

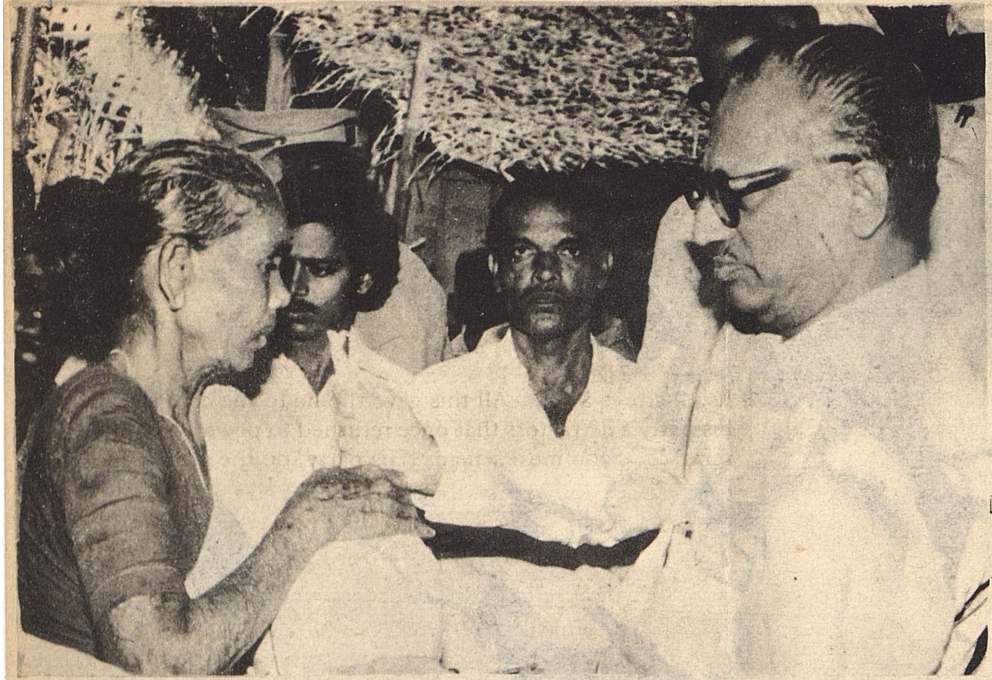
On the opposition's question about the source of funds for such schemes when the Government claimed that the treasury was "empty", the Minister said "the Chief Minister was as keen in ensuring that the revenue due to the Government is properly collected as in formulating welfare schemes for the people. The liquidation of the 'liquor empire' brought nearly Rs.150 crores as revenue to the Government and the auction of IMFS shops fetched almost Rs.40 crores. These are being used now for the people's welfare. It was earlier going to some select persons".

The free rice scheme cost the Government about Rs.36 crores for all the five occasions. The Government was also making the nutritious noon meal scheme "really nutritious", by distributing eggs to children twice a month from June 3.

He announced a donation of Rs.7 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from the Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Bank, the State Co-operative Union and the MCC Bank. The cheque was handed over to the Chief Minister

***"All ideals revolve round one fundamental ideal. It is that we should give the people a good, clean and fair life"***

**Anna**



by the Commissioner and Secretary, Food Department, Thiru R. Shanmugasigamani.

A girl living in the locality, Sugavilasini, came to the stage and handed over Rs.101 to the Chief Minister for the Relief Fund.

Presiding over the function, the Chief Secretary, Thiru M.M. Rajendran, said the Government had decided to implement the free rice scheme despite the financial constrains because the poor, especially mothers and children, were badly in need of nourishment.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister, Thiru L. Ganesan, pointed out that Tamil Nadu was the first State in the country to introduce such a free rice scheme.

Thiru M.K. Stalin, MLA, thanked the Government and the Chief Minister for choosing his Thousand Lights constituency to begin the rice scheme.

Thiru T.R. Balu, MP said the Government took credit for implementing most of its poll promises in the shortest period.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, Thiru Shanmugasigamani said there were 2,850 family cards in the two ration shops on South Boag Road and of them 1,252 families were eligible for the free rice, which would be issued till June 8.

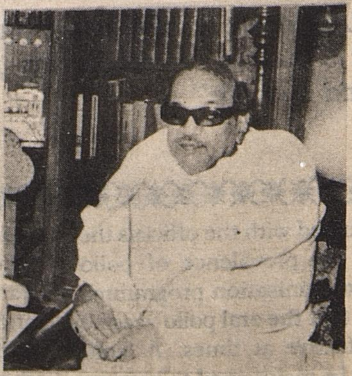
Thiru R. Arumugam, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, proposed a vote of thanks.

The rice scheme was launched at several places in Madras and all over the State, with the Ministers and MLAs participating in the functions.

## A friend of all religions and enemy to none

I am a Saivaite without "thiruneer" marks on the forehead, a Vaishnavite without "thiruman", a Muslim without lungi and a Christian without a cross.

The Chief Minister Dr.M. Karunanidhi in his speech at a function organised by the All India Christian Association to felicitate him and hisCabinet Ministers on 14th June 1989.



# Vitamin A Tablets to make noon-meal more nutritive

Children covered under the noon meal scheme will soon get vitamin 'A' tablets under a scheme designed to help them overcome eye defects.

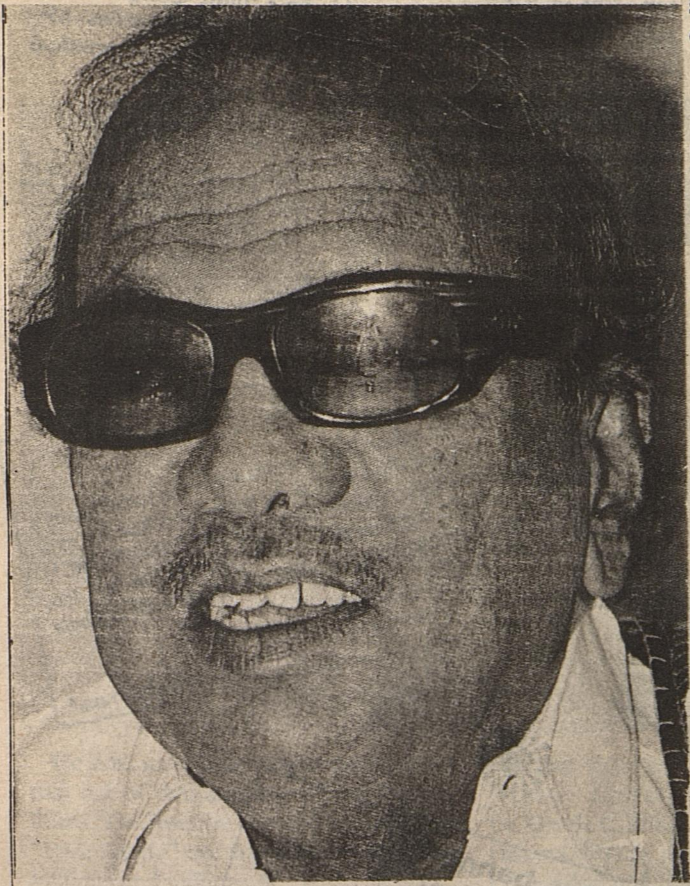
Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister, announced this on 13th June 1989 participating in a function got up by the Madras Aarunattu Vellalar Sangham to celebrate its silver jubilee and the 66th birthday of the Chief Minister. The proposal to give vitamin 'A' tablets daily to children only symbolised the fulfilment of the election promise made by his party. The egg supply scheme would cost the exchequer Rs.12 crores a year. All this gave the lie to the criticism of his party's detractors that once returned to power, it would scrap the noon meal scheme. His party, on the other hand stood by its commitment that it would not only make the scheme nutritive but also streamline it and make it corruption-free, he said.

The Chief Minister said his party was trying to fulfil all its election pledges. He likened the measures launched in the last four months, including free supply of 5 kg of rice on five occasions in a year to those below poverty line, and increase in pay scales of Government employees and teachers, to a "foreword" to a bulky volume of welfare schemes. He was confident of translating all the promises made by his party into reality with the people's cooperation.

He had a dig at those who questioned his party's extravagance in the face of his earlier criticism that the State's treasury and granary were empty. *"We did say that when we took over the reins of administration four months ago. But never did we say that our heads are empty,"* he said *amidst laughter. "They seem to think that they are all Finance* Ministers and could say anything they wanted. It was their culture". The Chief Minister said he had made it clear after his party returned to power that the Government proposed to plug all loopholes by which largescale revenue due to the Government was finding its way elsewhere, and effect economy by streamlining the administration.

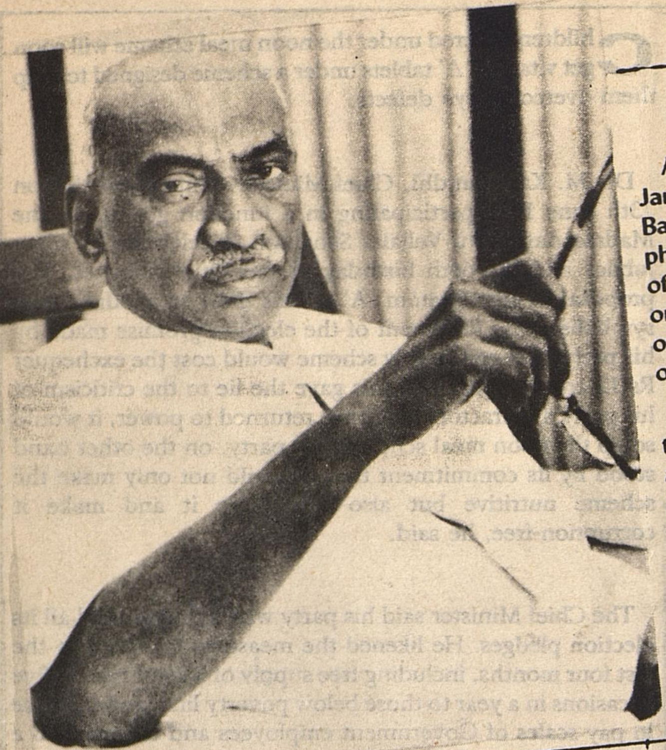
The Chief Minister distributed uniforms and notebooks, donated by the Sangham, to poor boys and girls studying in Corporation schools. The Government needed the active goodwill and cooperation of the people, he said and appealed to industrialists and philanthropists to join the Government's efforts in alleviating the sufferings of the poor. He commended the efforts of the Sangham in giving uniforms and notebooks to poor children and said the gesture was worthy of emulation.

Thiru P. Maruthai Pillai, industrialist, presiding eulogised the services of the Chief Minister for the poor. He presented a cheque for Rs.66,000 including Rs.11,000 on behalf of the Sangham, to him for the Chief Minister's relief fund.



*"We did say that the State's treasury and granary were empty, when we took over the reins of administration four months ago. But never did we say that our heads are empty."*

**-Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi**



## Grandeur in Simplicity

Among the foreign statesmen who travelled to Delhi in January 1966 to join the people of India in mourning Lal Bahadur Shastri's death were Vice President Hubert Humphrey of the United States and Chairman Alexei Kosygin of the Soviet Union. They called on President Radhakrishnan, on Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, the acting Prime Minister, and on the widow of the Indian leader who had died within hours of signing the Tashkent Declaration.

The two statesmen, representing the two mightiest nations of the world, also called on Kumaraswami Kamaraj, a big, swarthy man of 63 clad in simple home-spun cotton, son of a petty tradesman, with hardly six years of schooling, who is President of India's ruling Congress Party. Both invited him to visit their respective countries. Mr. Humphrey hailing him as "one of the greatest political leaders in all the free countries of the world."

Who was this great man?

The answer is *K. KAMARAJ*

## Outstanding Personality

Kamaraj has been an outstanding personality in the Indian politics for many years. He is essentially a man of the masses in whom his roots lie. Simple in life, he possesses a determined mind which enables him to run the administration of a big state like Madras. That he has held this high position for many years with such brilliant success is itself a tribute to his personality and ability.

*- Dr. Rajendra Prasad*

## A Servant of the people

'Kamaraj has risen to eminence not only in Madras State but in India by his continuous service of the people. Few persons have a greater right to be called a servant of the people than Shri Kamaraj. It has been my privilege to know him as a friend and a comrade for many years, and my regard for him has grown the more I knew him.

As Chief Minister of Madras, he has presided over a Government which has been a model of efficiency and good administration.

*Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru*

## Sacrifice his banner! Suffering his badge!!

Kamaraj has lived a life dedicated to the service of the people. Sacrifice has been his banner. Suffering has been his badge. Service has been his breath. Humble yet firm, gentle yet strong, kind yet candorous, angry yet affectionate, devoted yet detached, are some of the fine facets of his life.

*-Thiru T. Chengalvarayan*

# POETRY KARUNANIDHI

"A POET SHOULD RULE A COUNTRY—Plato has said, two thousand five hundred years ago. And Plato's dream has come true.

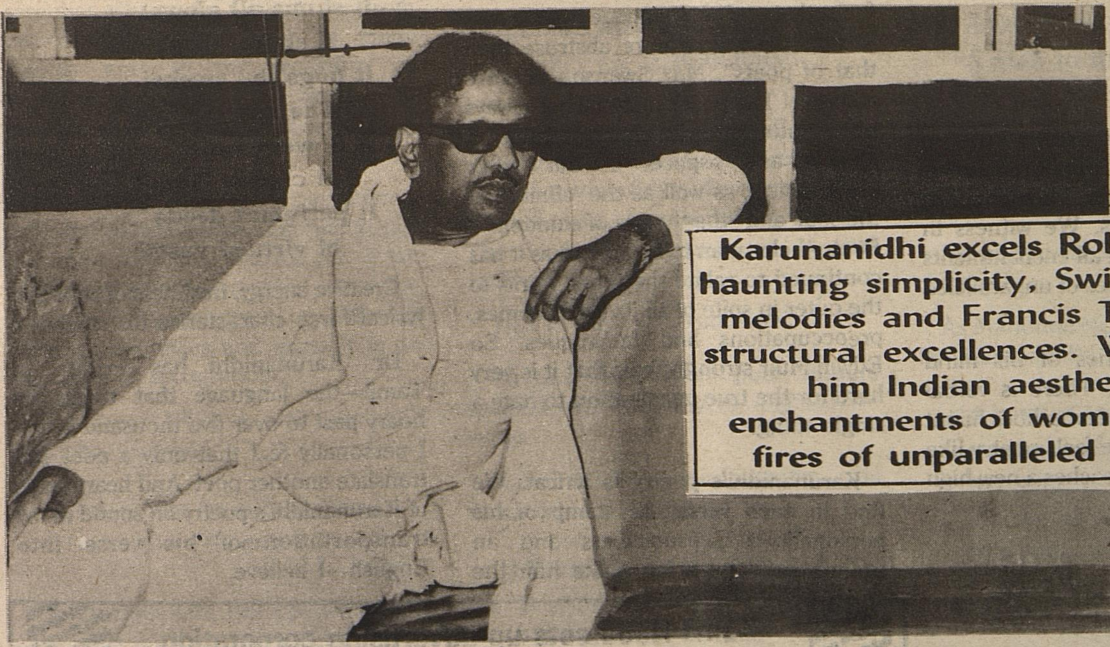
Dr. M. Karunanidhi, a poet of many excellences, has raised Tamil Nadu to a new high by his administrative genius, unrivalled drive for digital perfection, and a remarkable skill in tackling day-to-day problems. His glorious rule of Tamil Nadu as Chief Minister of the state is due to his dynamic and visioned poetic sense.

and thousands thronging under his D.M.K. Banner.

And his matchless Leader Annadurai, creating revolutions in Indian Thought and capturing the fortress of Power, D.M.K. Movement saw the fruition of Dravidian dreams. Annadurai could not stay to power, due to acute illness. And after his demise, Karunanidhi was elected as Leader and he became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The Golden Age of Dravidian Rule dawned with a great poet at the helm of affairs.

I still remember how graciously Millers were received by Poet Karunanidhi. Dr. Miller conferred on him the prestigeous title "WORLD POET". The Press and Radio highlighted this news and from that hour, wherever the poet went, he was hailed as "World Poet".

And in 1975, he inaugurated my Asian Poets Congress at Rajaji Hall, Madras in the presence of two hundred poets, from Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Israel, Africa, Europe and U.S.A;



**Karunanidhi excels Robert Frost in haunting simplicity, Swinburne in his melodies and Francis Thompson in structural excellences. We witness in him Indian aesthetics, all enchantments of womanhood and fires of unparalleled patriotism.**

He has opened up a new horizon in that art of dialogue-writing for Tamil Films. The lines he wrote in his picture "Para Sakthi" are still remembered by millions and millions of Tamils all over the world. Immortal lines like:

**"Lofty Temple Towers...**
**Low baser hearts....**

clicked with public. The fiery outpourings from the cathedral of his mind raged and roared and made Tamils question the sorry scheme of things and throb for a change—social and political. In all upheavals that shook Tamil Politics to its roots, Karunanidhi stood as a citadel of rationalism - thousands

When the Chancellor of my World Poetry Society Intercontinental Dr. Orville C. Miller of Illinois University, Urbana, U.S.A. went round the world, I requested him to visit Madras. And he came with his beautiful wife in 1970.

Preface given by Dr. Krishna Srinivas, Founder - Editor of the International Magazine 'Poet', to Poems by Hon'ble Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi. The learned doctor has himself rendered into English some important poems of Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi. He is going to translate these poems into ten more major languages of the world.

His speech was the talk of poets all over the world.

I am proud to place before the members of my World Poetry Society Intercontinental this unique and pensive poetry of Karunanidhi. Previous Numbers of POET have highlighted the poetry of Dr. Leopold Sedar Senghor, former President of Senegal, Africa; Dr. Justo Jorge Pedron of Spain; Dr. Tin-Wen Chung of the Republic of China; Dr. Osman Turkay, a Nobel Prize Nominee from London; Falkowskis of U.S.A., Dr. Virginia Rodas of Argentina; Poets of Russia; Dr. William E. Morris of New Zealand; Dr. Kamala Das and Dr. Pritish Nandy of India and other world eminents.

Karunanidhi's Poetry is a universe by itself. He opens magic casements. He summons spirits from the deep and they willingly come. Words erupt. Images explode. Seasons swoon. Passion swells. Time bleeds,

Poetry is not the things said. It is the way of saying it. It puts language to full use as a means of thought, exploration and discussion. Mallrme breathed image, magic and gesture in poetry. Rimbaud bathed verses in dreams. To W.B. Yeats, passion flowered to visions. Others made 'language washings'. To many poets, words hid silences, hiatuses and fusions. Some transcended words. Many offered keys to strange corridors. To Karunanidhi it is always a search, rich and strange. And he is happy:

**"I remain**
**A Sovereign**
**In my domain"**

Karunanidhi excels Robert Frost in haunting simplicity, Swinburne in his melodies and Francis Thompson in structural excellences. We witness in him Indian aesthetics, all enchantments of womanhood and fires of unparalleled patriotism.

The winding galleries of his mind unfurl strange tunes. There is verbal magic in his words. Green echoes haunt him like a passión. He feels poetry like fire in his hands. He reaches a new high in "Modesty".

**"Eye rests**
**in eyelid doors:**
**Tongue rests**
**in mouth prison:**
**Breath rests**
**in hush of winds:**
**Body rests**
**in graveyard peace:**
**Mind rests**
**in wisdomed bliss"**

Karunanidhi is a verbal alchemist. He extracts gold from his mind. He explores the subconscious layers of personality which remain intimately related to interior and exterior worlds. So the great poet Gary Snyder has said: "We are now experiencing a surfacing the great Suboulture which goes as back as the late Paleolithic".

Man's life and destiny is growth and enlightenment-the divine has been made flesh and flesh divine. As such, poetry becomes vital, fertile and dynamic.

Nobel Laureate St. John Perse claims that science and poetry put the same question to same abyss. Poetry is only a knowledge, it is even more a way of life-of life in its totality. "Its alleged obscurity is due not to its own nature, which is to enlighten, but the darkness which it explores, and must explore-the darkness of soul herself and the dark of the mystery which envelops human existence". Obscurity is many-faceted-due to complexities of diction and style, due to the rendering of exceptional experiences.

The great Hungarian Poet Gyula Illyes feels that: "The language that sways world's destiny is more abstruse than that of poets". May Swenson is more assertive! The poet's material has always been nature-human and otherwise-all objects and aspects of our outer environment as well as the 'climate of the soul' and "the theatre of emotions". Poetry helps man to be human-as it has continued to relate the inner world to the outer in spite of all its programmes, preoccupations and techniques. So Edwin Muir strongly feels that it is very hard for the true imagination to hate a single thing.

Karunanidhi's poetry is lyrical. We find in each verse the stamp of his personality-a Sensuousness and an unique subtlety which make him the most outstanding poet in Tamil Nadu today. There is acute intensity in his details, an almost widest sweep in his expression. His is a torrential genius of Tamil which bursts out from time to time, producing mighty creative beings, visionaries whose power of expression in national and international terms reaches the highest conceivable peak. An explosion of this kind of genius took place early in this century in Subramania Bharati.

On "Fame", the poet has sung hysterically:

**"If hounded**
**It runs unbound!**
**If riches given**
**It goes uneven!**
**It shuns all glows!**
**It shuns all gloves!**
**It hugs the meeks!**
**The vile it Kioks!**
**It flowers feet**
**of chosen Great!**
**It perfumes deeds**
**of virtued vasts!**

Creative energy, freshness of style and lyrical force characterise his verses.

Dr. Karunanidhi has written in Tamil—the language that traces its hoary past to over five thousand years. I personally feel that only a poet can translate another poet. And heart-beats of Karunanidhi's poetry do sound in my transportation of his verse into English—I believe.

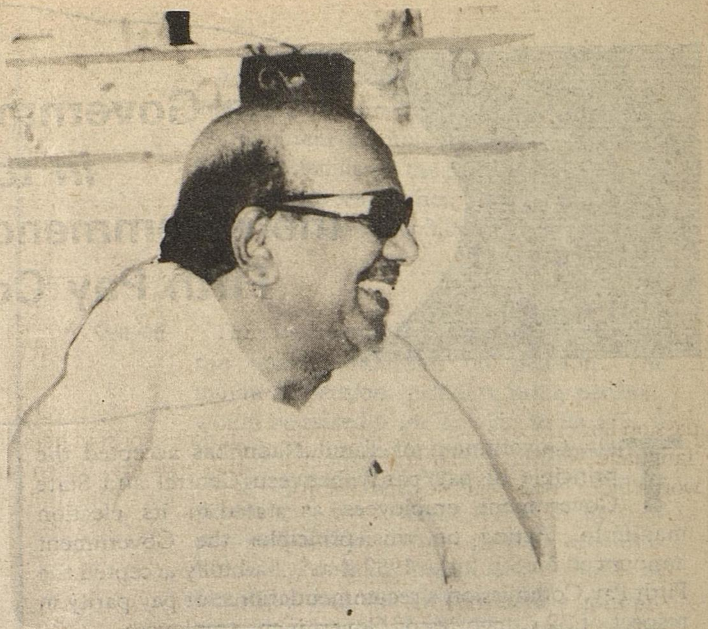
## Tamil Nadu sets up advertising corporation

The Tamil Nadu Government has constituted an Advertising Corporation to look after the advertisements of the various departments, corporations and boards, and also to impart training in mass communication to the officers of the State Government.

The Corporation, which is the first one to be created by the Government, will have a Special Officer in the initial stage, and a nine-member board of Directors.

With the formation of a separate corporation, the Government may be enabled to follow a professional approach.

The board of Directors will comprise Secretary, Information and Tourism, Finance Secretary, Revenue Secretary, Director of Information and Public Relations, Special Officer, Co-optex, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, Director of Raffles, Director of Small Savings and the Managing Director of the Arasu Advertising Corporation.



Poets translating poets — that is a venerable tradition from Dryden-translating Virgil: to Shelley translating Plato and Pound translating Chinese poets. With this distinguished tribe have joined world's most eminent Poets—T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Pasternak and Stephen Spender. Translation has become the forte of many renowned poets.

Nobel Laureate Pasternak who is famous for translating Shakespeare into Russian has nobly said: "An original should be related to its rendering, as the stock to a cutting".

In ultimate sense, poetry cannot be translated but its magical web of meanings, and images can be brought out in the translated version. Sixties and seventies witnessed a moving away from provincialism. Poets feed on many springs and all the treasures of Parnassian World are made available to readers in all nations in English, the international language.

Jean Garrigue asserts: "Translation is essential to humanism. It connects not only past with the present... it is an ancient way too of making clear the Kinship between men of different cultures, countries and ages. It is an exchange of recognitions."

The great Chilean poet Vincente Huidobro has said:

"May verse be like a key
That opens a thousand doors".

Dr. Karunanidhi has opened magic casements on Parnassian Seas.

"Circle has many a round—
A mine of meanings ever found!
The moon that sheds
Soft lights in floods
Goes merry rounds
To woman's life
is chastity bound!
To valiants
war is battle round!
To ryots plough
the fields are round!
To saints great
the Mind is round!
The vile
never seethe round!
But once seen
they are traitors found!"

The great Spanish Poet Frederica Garcia Lorca has said: "Inspiration is a state of contemplation. From inspiration one returns as from a distant country. The Poem is an account of that Journey".

This is true of Karunanidhi.

To this great Tamil poet, flowers speak, leaves have fingers, mights have wings.

Karunanidhi's humanism is remarkable. He sings:

"A truthful man
Is not afraid of long life's span:
He braves all storms:
He fights all harms:
But one sunk
In voluptuousness
Can never survive
And will perish
Worse than a fish"...

and he loudly proclaims.

"…. He alone
Is truer Man
Who swears to life
His countrymen
And dialects
To freedomed heights
And live as chosen Man,
A common Man —
A man to illumine
All his countrymen."

Karunanidhi is a poet of total vision.

He uses free verse on speech-rhythms.

His poems are suited for recitals and chantings.

As Marionne Moore hailed Whitman, Dr. Karunanidhi is essentially...

"A bard of ancient mysteries,
strong and certain in
his singing
His voice is rolling
hypnotic, incantatory.
It has the rush and flow,
the shock and harshness,
a delicate precision,
It is intricately,
composed music."

World Poets in all the six continents will be thrilled by reading the verses of this Statesman Poet. This gifted Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will be happy to receive assessments of his Poetry from world audience.

I am sure "POET" readers will write to him. I assure them, they will be treasured.

# The Government accepts *in toto* the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission

THE Government of Tamil Nadu has accepted the principle of pay parity between Central and State Government employees as stated in its election manifesto. Acting on this principle, the Government announced on 8th June, 1989 that it had fully accepted the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations for pay parity in respect of 32 categories of Government employees.

The Fifth Pay Commission headed by former judge of the Madras High Court Thiru G. Ramanujam was appointed during the President's regime. It submitted its report on May 16th.

After a cabinet meeting on June 8th 1989 Chief Minister Dr.M. Karunanidhi issued a press statement in which he said that the Government had decided to improve the wage structure and service conditions of full time and part-time Government employees numbering nearly 11,30,000. The Pay Commission's recommendations are also extended to teachers and non-teaching staff of aided schools.

**Total cost of Pay revision Rs.400 crore**

The increased outgo for the Government as a result of the burden cast by the acceptance of the panel's report has been computed at Rs.400 crore in a full year. The new wage scales would come into force from June 1, 1988. The arrears due to Government employees from 1.6.1988 to 31.5.1989 would be credited to the Provident Fund Account of the employees to avoid unbearable cash outflow.

**Pay Parity for 32 categories**

The Pay revision now gives 23 scales against the existing 17. Pay parity with Central scales has been accorded to 32 categories. For eight categories the Government has even improved upon the Central scales. These include Typists and Junior Assistants, Tahsildars, Inspectors and Sub-inspectors of Police, Under Secretaries,

The Fifth Pay Commission Report was submitted to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by its Chairman Justice G. Ramanujam on 16.5.89 at the Chief Minister's Chamber.

Deputy Secretaries, Superintendents of Police, District Revenue Officers, Sub-Judges, Superintending Engineers, Joint Directors of School Education Department, Joint Secretaries, Heads of Department, Chief Engineers and District and Sessions Judges Grade-I.

**6-day week**

One of the most important decisions taken by the Government was to scrap the present 5-day working week. Government employees would be required to work on 6 days a week for 3 weeks of the month. The second saturday will of course be a paid holiday. The argument advanced for restoring the 6-day week is that although the Central Government employees worked for 5 days in a week they had to work for 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week whereas the State Government employees had only a 7-hour work on the working day.

**DA merged**

The Pay Commission had recommended the merger of the dearness allowance with basic pay at the index figure of 752 as on July 1, 1988.

The Pay Commission did not however recommend parity in respect of dearness allowance for the State Government employees along with the Central Government employees. The Chief Minister said that the Government, however, in order to keep its pledge to the employees decided to accept the same dearness allowance formula as applicable to the Central Government employess to the State Government employees after merging the dearness allowance upto the index of 608. The additional expenditure as a result of increase in dearness allowance would amount to Rs.50 crore at this point of 608. The Government would also pay additional DA instalment from January 1, 1989 as was done by the Central Government and this would additionally involve an expenditure of Rs.88 crore.

**More money for noon-meal employees**

There were 2.8 lakh employees, including organisers of noon-meal centres and village officers, working on fixed salary and honorarium basis. The increase in their remuneration would range from Rs.20 to Rs.100. The recommendations of the Pay Commission on travelling allowances had been accepted in full. Handicapped employees would get a special conveyance allowance, of 5 per cent of their pay, upto a maximum of Rs.50. This would benefit 15,000 employees.

Recently, the Government had raised the advances for marriage of women employees or daughters of employees from Rs.2,000 to Rs.5,000. Similarly, the marriage advance for men employees of their sons would go up from Rs.1,500 to Rs.3,000.

**Pension**

The Government had also accepted in full the recommendations on pension. The minimum pension, including family pension, would be raised from Rs.245/- to Rs.375/- a month. The ceiling on family pension would also go up from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,250. For old pensioners, the increase would be upto 80 per cent of their current pension amounts. Some 1.76 lakh pensioners would be benefited and the Government's commitment on this would be Rs.40 crores annually.

Though the Pay Commission had recommended the system of introducing Efficiency Bar in the time scale as in the case of Central staff, the State Government had decided to drop this as it had given up the confidential report system.

The additional commitment to the State Government was Rs.5 crores in respect of the First Pay Commission (1960), Rs.21 crores on the Second Commission (1970), Rs.34 crores on the Third Commission (1978) and Rs.90 crores on the Fourth Pay Commission (1985).

The Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation would cost an additional Rs.262 crores. This, in addition to maintaining parity in the dearness allowance and payment of one more instalment due on January 1, would cost a total additional expenditure of Rs.400 crores.

The one-year arrears to be credited to the PF accounts is expected to be Rs.260 crores.

The Government had decided to bear this additional burden as the new scales were likely to benefit a large number of employees.

## Working days for Government Offices

**The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued orders that all saturdays except the second Saturday of the month, will be working days for State Government employees and teachers in pursuance of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission. This will come into effect from July 1.**

**The switch over to the six-day week will not affect the working hours, which remain 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.**

## The New Scales:

Following is the statement showing the existing and the revised scales of pay for the various categories of State Government employees for whom parity with the Central employees has been announced.

| Sl. No. | Categories of employees | Existing scales of pay | Revised scales of pay |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cooks in Adi Dravidars and Backward Classes hostels. ... | 350-550 | 750-940 |
| 2. | Office Assistants ... | 450-720 | 750-940 |
| 3. | Record Clerks ... | 475-775 | 775-1025 |
| 4. | Police Constables Grade II ... | 505-845 | 825-1200 |
| 5. | Police Constables Grade I ... | 555-970 | 950-1500 |
| 6. | Drivers ... | 610-1075 | 950-1500 |
| 7. | Ministerial Assistants ... | 705-1230 | 1200-2040 |
| 8. | Superintendents (Ministerial) ... | 905-1545 | 1600-2660 |
| 9. | Secondary Grade Teachers ... | 610-1075 | 1200-2040 |
| 10. | Graduate Teachers ... | 780-1385 | 1400-2600 |
| 11. | Post Graduate Teachers ... | 1160-1950 | 1640-2900 |
| 12. | Deputy Tahsildars ... | 905-1545 | 1600-2660 |
| 13. | Deputy Collectors ... | 1340-2435 | 2200-4000 |
| 14. | Head Constables ... | 705-1230 | 975-1660 |
| 15. | Deputy Superintendents of Police ... | 1340-2435 | 2200-4000 |
| 16. | Civil Assistant Surgeons ... | 1340-2435 | 2200-4000 |
| 17. | Civil Surgeons & Reader non-clinical ... | 1800-2900 | 3000-4500 |
| 18. | Assistant Professors (Medical) ... | 1575-2685 | 2500-4200 |
| 19. | Nurses ... | 780-1385 | 1400-2600 |
| 20. | Pharmacists ... | 705-1230 | 1350-2200 |
| 21. | Veterinary Assistant Surgeons ... | 1160-1950 | 2000-3500 |
| 22. | Agricultural Officers ... | 1160-1950 | 1640-2900 |
| 23. | Deputy Agricultural Officers ... | 1045-1775 | 1600-2660 |
| 24. | Junior Engineers ... | 1045-1775 | 1400-2600 |
| 25. | Drafts Man Grade II ... | 905-1545 | 1400-2600 |
| 26. | Assistant Engineers/Drafts Man Grade I ... | 1160-1950 | 1640-2900 |
| 27. | Assistant Executive Engineers ... | 1340-2435 | 2200-4000 |
| 28. | Executive Engineers ... | 1800-2900 | 3000-4500 |
| 29. | Co-operative Sub Registrars ... | 1045-1775 | 1640-2900 |
| 30. | District Munisiffs & Magistrates ... | 1575-2685 | 2500-4200 |
| 31. | Secretariat Assistants ... | 610-1075 | 1100-1660 |
| 32. | Secretariat Assistant Section Officer ... | 780-1385 | 1400-2600 |

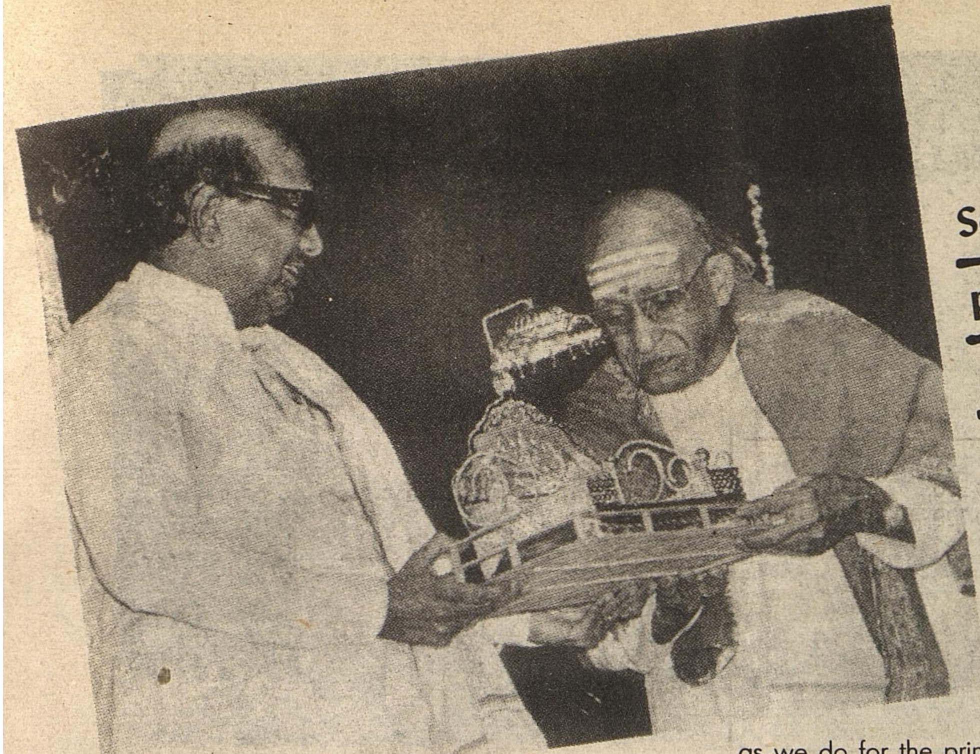
## Higher than Central pay:

In respect of the following categories, the pay scales have been improved upon the central scale.

| Sl. No. | Categories of employees | Existing Scales of Pay | Recommended by the Pay Commission | Revised by the Government |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1. | Typists and Junior Assistants | 610-1075 | 950-1500 | 975-1660 |
| 2. | Tahsildars, Inspectors of Police, BDO, Secretariat Section Officers | 1160-1850 | 1820-3200 | 2000-3500 |
| 3. | Sub-Inspectors of Police | ... | 1400-2600 | 1600-2660 |
| 4. | Under Secretaries & Deputy Directors of Heads of Departments. | 1800-2900 | 2700-4300 | 3000-4500 |
| 5. | Deputy Secretaries, District Revenue Officers, Superintendent of Police & Sub-Judges | 2150-3090 | 3000-4500 | 3700-5000 |
| 6. | Joint Directors (School Education Dept.) Superintending Engineers & Joint Director (Industries Department) | 2500-3375 | 3700-5000 | 4100-5300 |
| 7. | Joint Secretaries to Government & Additional Directors of Heads of Departments | 2750-3650 | 4100-5300 | 4500-5700 |
| 8. | Heads of Departments, Chief Engineers & District & Sessions Judges. | 3100-4050 | 4500-5700 | 5100-5700 |

## A Profitable decision for Co-op spinning mills

The Government decision to allow co-operative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu to sell the surplus yarn with them to other States only after totally meeting the local demands in the handloom, powerloom and private sectors has resulted in profits to atleast seven co-operative spinning mills. Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister, said on 10th June 1989 inauguarating the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Salem Co-operative spinning mills.



## Semmangudi is the principal deity in the Sanctum sanctorum of the Temple of Music

While participating in a function at which Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, the 'Grand Old Man' of Classical Music, was honoured by musicians, the public, the admirers and disciples on his having turned 80, the Chief Minister Dr.M. Karunanidhi compared him to the idol worshipped in the sanctum sanctorum) of a temple.

"There are several images in attractive colours fixed on the tower of a temple but we do not, pay our obeisance to them as we do for the principal deity" he said referring to the doyen's service and his stature in the field.

The great musician referred to the histrionic talents of the Chief Minister Dr.M. Karunanidhi. He recalled how artistes like Sarangadeva and Venkatatri were ministers in olden days. He added that the people of Tamil Nadu were wise in entrusting the administration to this "great artiste". He thanked the Chief Minister for having declined to go to Bombay on the day because of the function.

The function was held at Music Academy on 7th June '89.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF RS.38.05 CRORES BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

*THE State Government submitted a Memorandum to the Government of India requesting for financial assistance for Drought Relief to the tune of Rs. 221-95 crores. This included programmes for drinking water supply, employment generation, agricultural subsidy etc, certain major capital works for comprehensive water supply schemes were also included. Further, substancial assistance was asked for to undertake transportation of drinking water in various cities and for the purchase of mud rotary rigs.*

*The Government of India sent a team to assess the drought situation through local inspection. The team visited 8 districts and they were convinced of the seriousness of the drought in the State, and appreciated relief works taken up by the State. However the State Government have received intimation that the Government of India is sanctioning only an assistance of Rs. 38.05 crores as against nearly Rs. 222 crores asked for. Government of India have taken the stand that assistance can be given only for works which can be completed before 30-9-1989 that is before the onset of the North-East Monsoon. They have sanctioned Rs. 29.83 crores for drinking water supply scheme which can be completed before the date. As regards employment generation schemes, they have sanctioned Rs. 3 crores on the argument that the money available under the 'Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam' should be utilised for giving employment in the rural areas. They have sanctioned small amounts for agricultural subsidy, supplementary nutrition, public health, animal husbandry. They have not sanctioned any amount for purchase of mud rotary rigs for taking up new major water supply schemes.*

*In anticipation of Government of India sanction and to execute drought relief works without delay the State Government have already sanctioned Rs. 53 crores towards drinking water supply, employment generation and other schemes.*

# Chief Minister Commissions the Third unit of the

THE Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the 210 MW third unit of the Mettur Thermal Power Station at Mettur, on 10th June 1989. While speaking on the occasion he said the thermal plant, with four units, was envisaged to be completed in two stages, each costing Rs.384 crore and Rs.462 crore respectively. The fourth station would be operational by December, he said.

He said the 210 MW unit of the Tuticorin Thermal Station would start generation in September 1990 while another 210 MW unit of the same plant would start production in March 1991.

**Steps to ease out the power situation**

Stating that the Government was taking all steps to ease out the power situation in the State, he said work on the new 600 MW thermal power station at Pulikadu in North Madras would soon begin. The foundation would be laid by July this year and the first phase completed by September 1992.

**Lifting of the present power cut**

He announced lifting of the present 60 per cent power cut for over 2000 small industries in the State from June 21 as he expected some improvement in the State's power generation.

**A month's salary as incentive to the workers of the Mettur Thermal Station**

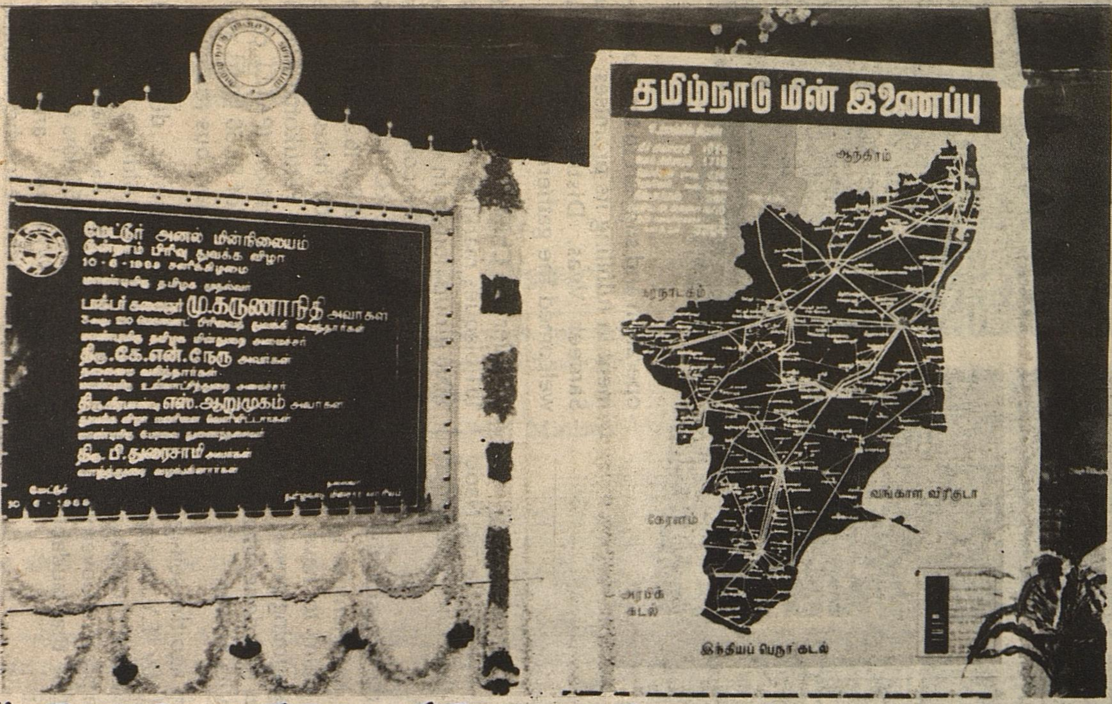
The Chief Minister announced a month's salary as incentive to the 1400 workers of the Mettur Thermal Station, in appreciation of their work in constructing the third unit. This would cost Rs. 50 lakh to the Government, he said.

He said 315 persons, one from each of the families, whose lands were acquired for construction of the plant, would be provided employment.

**New Industries**

15 Industries would be started in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.465 crore.

On the power front, the Chief Minister said, it was hoped the position would improve further after the completion of the 2 MW Pykara unit by September, 8 MW Bhavani Scheme by August, 6 MW Vaigai




# Mettur Thermal Power Station

Scheme in October, 11 MW Kayatharu Scheme and 10 MW Kovilkalappu Scheme by March next year.

**Concession to employees**

The Children (in class VIII or above) of those workers who died in construction work at power stations, would be given employment. Under this provision 380 girls and 450 men would be given jobs. Mettur thermal power unit would also soon have co-operatives to help the employees.

Talks were already underway regarding wages hike for TNEB staff. A decision in this regard would be reached soon, the Chief Minister said.

**On Koodangulam**

Referring to the Koodangulam super atomic power plant the Chief Minister said the Centre had agreed to set up a committee consisting of Central and State Government officials, besides some experts. The Committee would go into the merits and demerits of the project and on the basis of the panel's report the Government would take a decision.

**More Industries more employment generation**

The Chief Minister indicated that the project; if it came through, would enhance the power position in the State. This would make it possible to provide more connection to industries, resulting in enhanced employment generation.

Electricity Minister Thiru K.N. Nehru presided.

Ministers Thiru Arcot Veerasami, Thiru Chandrasekharan, Thiru Thangavelu, Veerapandi Arumugam, Assembly Deputy Speaker Thiru P. Duraisamy, Collector Thiru Farooq, MLAs Thiru Singalan and Thiru K.R.G. Dhanpal also spoke on the occasion.

**Power requirement rising**

Earlier, welcoming the gathering Thiru T.V. Antony, Chairman, TNEB, disclosed that the state's power requirement had been increasing at the rate of 20 per cent a year. To improve the position the Government proposed to start more 210 and 250 MW power station.

**Donation to CM's fund**

On behalf of the TNEB engineers a sum of Rs.25,000 was donated to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, at the function.

# Chingleput District named after Anna

Kancheepuram the capital of the Pallava Kingdom has been the birth place of stalwarts in various walks of life, scholars of erudition and experience and administrators of rare abilities. But never has it seen a nobler soul who is at once an embodiment of Tamil Culture, an erudite scholar and an exponent of the cause of the down trodden than Anna. To millions of Tamils all over the world he is ANNA the elder brother.

He was the emancipator of the Dravidian race and the guardian angel of the Tamils.

It is he who named our State Tamil Nadu.

The fittest way to show our gratitude to this great leader is to name his native district after him.

This idea was conceived by Dr.M. Karunanidhi, the beloved 'Younger brother' of Anna who repeatedly appealed to the previous regime to name the Chingleput District after Anna who was born at Kancheepuram, the head-quarters of the district. The Government ignored it and named Dindigul district after Anna. To honour the memory of the great leader and remember him with gratitude, the present Government chose to rename Chingleput district as Chengai-Anna District.

The function to rename Chingleput District was held on 1.6.89 amid fanfare and jubilation. A package of social welfare measures costing over Rs.3 crores designed to benefit more than 10,000 persons marked the function organised by the Tamil Nadu Government at the police stadium at Kancheepuram.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister Dr.M. Karunanidhi said his party did not claim to have done miracles since assuming power three months ago but had done what was possible within its power.

It was 60 years ago the self-respect movement led by E.V.Ramaswami demanded here equal property rights for women. The present Government was able to realise that laudable objective.

Thiru K. Manoharan, Revenue Minister who presided, appealed to the people to extend their co-operation and support to the Government in fulfilling its promises. Thiru Sameer Vyas, District Collector welcomed the gathering.

Earlier the Chief Minister unveiled 101 plaques marking the opening of 1,066 group houses in 49 centres at a cost of Rs.1.8 crores, community halls in 36 centres at Rs. 14.8 lakhs, 15 school buildings at Rs. 16.35 lakhs and declared open 100 houses for the employees of the Pattukottai Alagiri Transport Corporation (PATC) constructed at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs and inaugurated five new bus routes.

The Chief Minister distributed house-site pattas, old-age pension, etc., all costing over Rs. 85 lakhs, loans to the tune of Rs. 3.5 lakhs for the Adi Dravidar Welfare and Self-employment scheme for the purchase of autorickshaws, motorised cycle-rickshaws, besides granting loans to start tea stalls to 45 Adi Dravidars.

"Naming of a district should usually have relevance to persons after whom the district has been named".

*-Chief Minister*

## *In the Inaugural Function of Dindigul Quaid-e-Millath District*

INAUGURATING formally the former Anna District with headquarters at Dindigul as Dindigul Quaid-e-Millath district on 11th June, the Chief Minister, Dr. M.Karunanidhi, said usually naming of a district should have relevance to persons after whom the district had been named.

Even when the late M.G. Ramachandran named this district as Anna District since Anna was born in that district, his family members had expressed desire to name the district with headquarters at Kancheepuram as Anna District.

The Chief Minister said Quaid-e-Milleth was born in Tirunelveli district, (which has already been named after Kattabomman) but his wife was from this place.

He felt that new names had fulfilled the aspirations of many people although there were controversies and allegations against the DMK and the Chief Minister for renaming districts.

The Chief Minister referred to the Congress (I) legislator, Tmt. A.S. Ponnammal's desire to name the district after the late Subramania Siva and said that the Congress (I) member had every reason to believe that freedom fighters like Subramania Siva should be honoured. Taking into consideration the desire expressed by the Congress (I) member, the Chief Minister said that the Collector's building complex which would soon be coming up in Dindigul would be named after Subramania Siva.

**Scheme inaugurated:** He also inaugurated various Schemes, including opening of a new building, an over bridge and drinking water schemes.

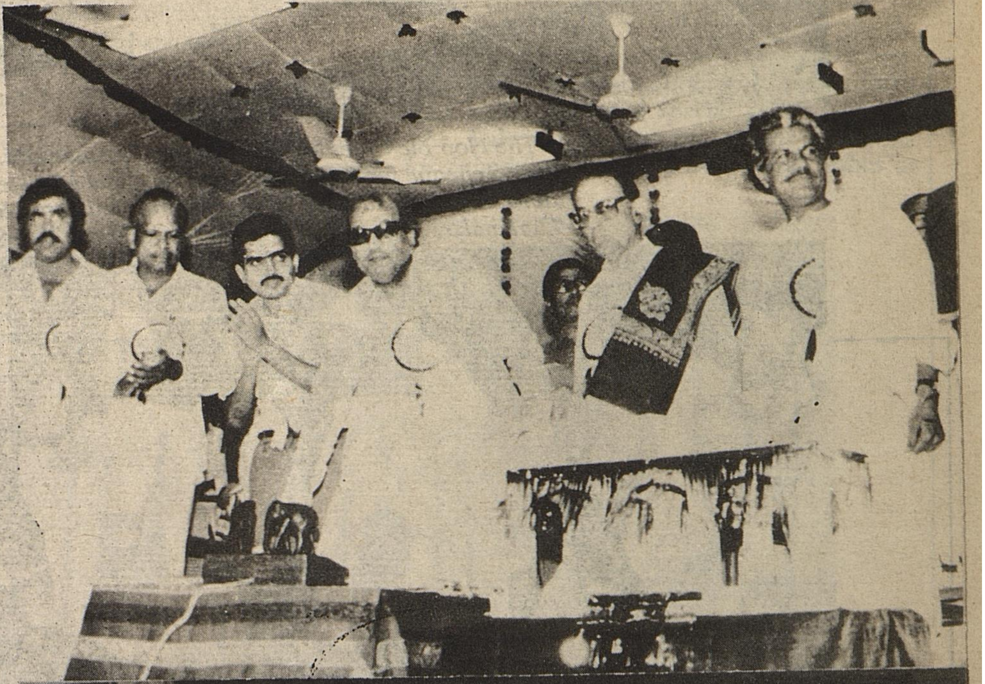
He distributed funds to 320 poor persons to start business, house-site pattas to 100 persons, old age pension to 300 persons, spectacles to old people and extended finance for blind married couples.

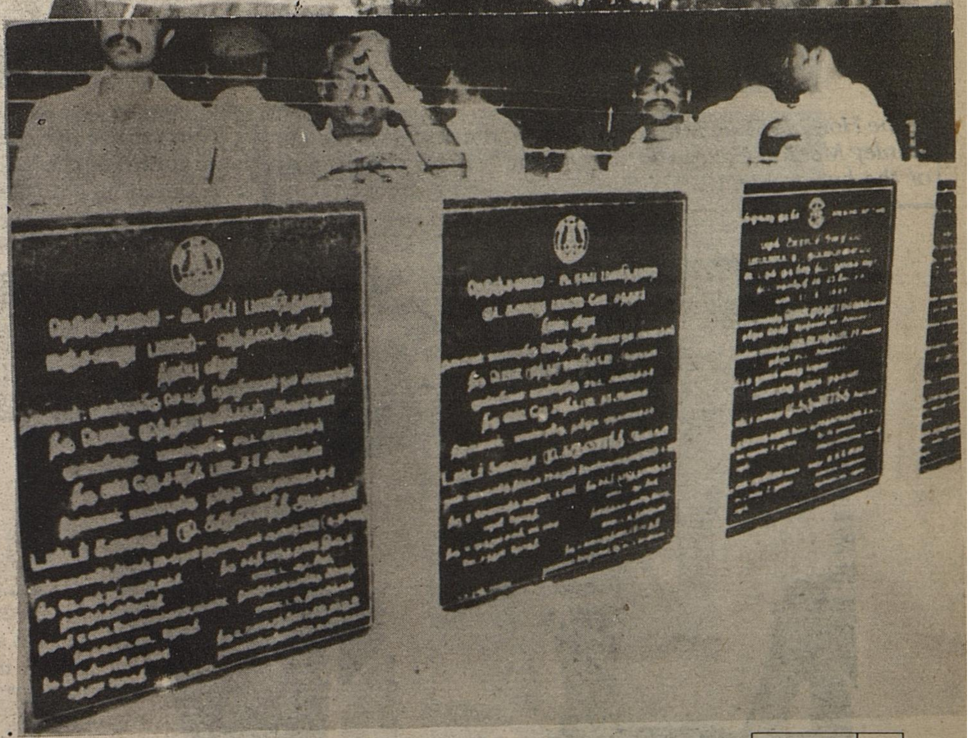
The Chief Minister inaugurated a dozen new bus routes run by Rani Mangammal Transport Corporation.

Thiru Sakthi Kanthadas, Collector, welcomed the gethering. Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam, Minister for Information and Labour, presided.

Thiru Tamilkudimagan, Speaker, Legislative Assembly and the Minister for Law Thiru Sadiq Pasha also participated.

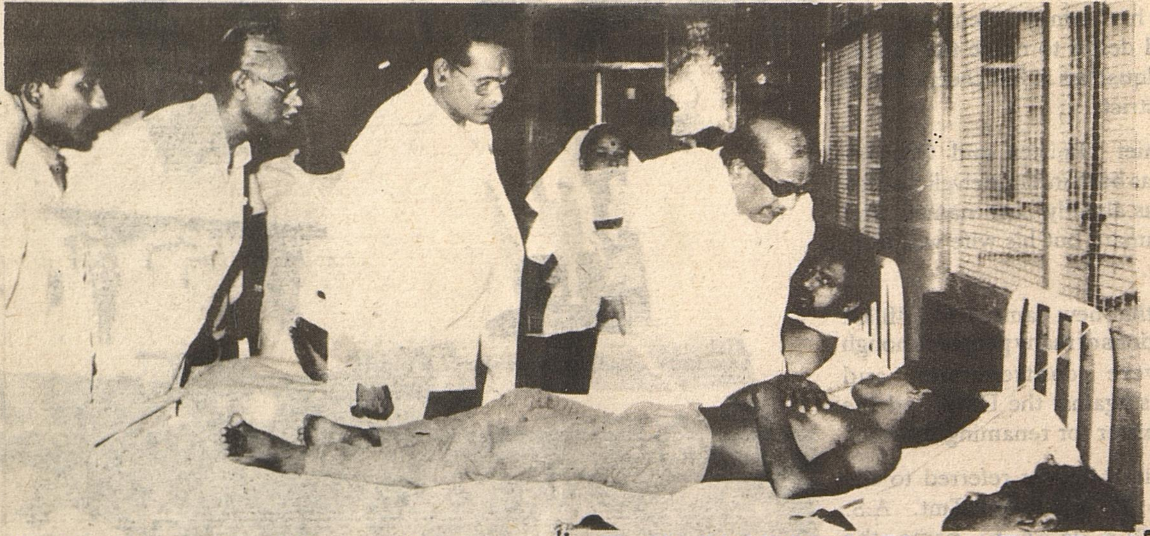
Thiru M.A. Abdul Samad, Chairman, Dindigul Municipality proposed a vote of thanks.





# News in Pictures

*The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi, handed over a cheque for Rs.10,000 from the Chief Minister's relief fund, to the daughter of late Thiru. Rajaram, Reporter, Dinamalar, at the Press Reporters' Guild on 27.6.89.*

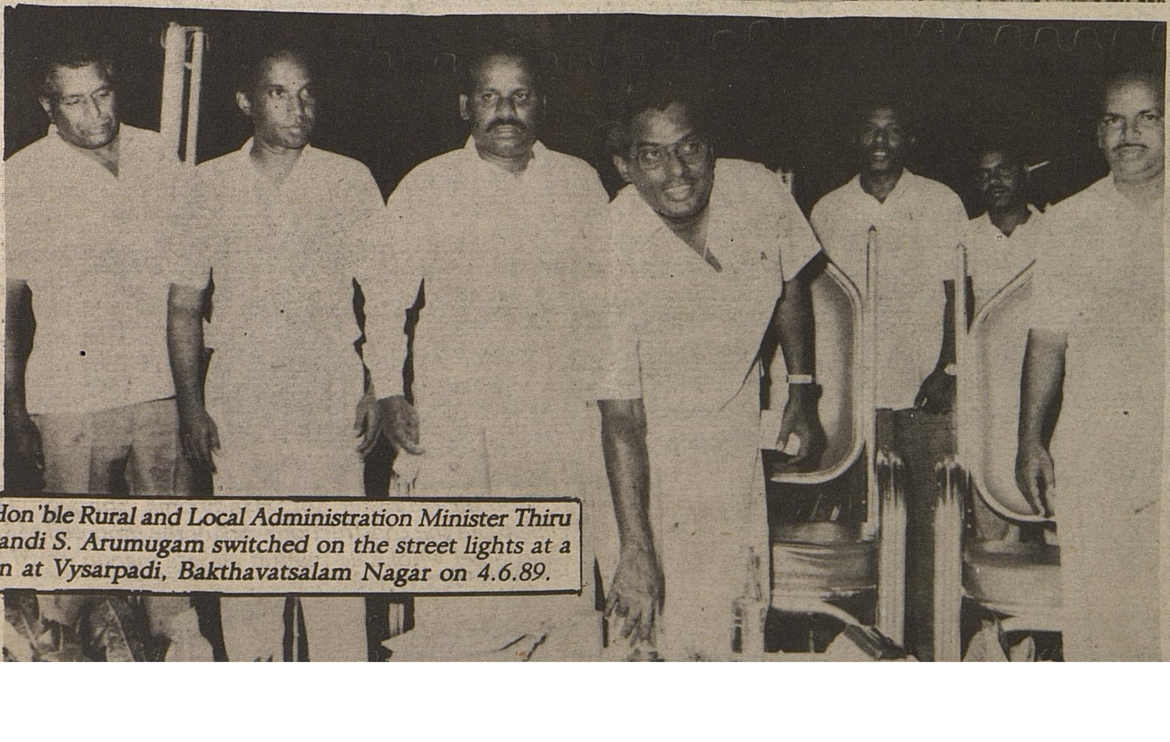


*The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi visited the Stanley Medical College on 13.6.89 and consoled the victims of the bus accident.*

*The Hon'ble Minister for Education Thiru K. Anbazhagan inaugurated the 'Olympic Day Run' organised in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Corporation and Youth Training Centre on 25.6.89. Thiru R. Nagarajan, IAS., Home Secretary also participated.*

The Hon'ble Minister for Education Thiru K. Anbazhagan distributed free Milk Card to the Aavin staff on behalf of the Milk Producers' Co-operative Union on 2-6-1989.

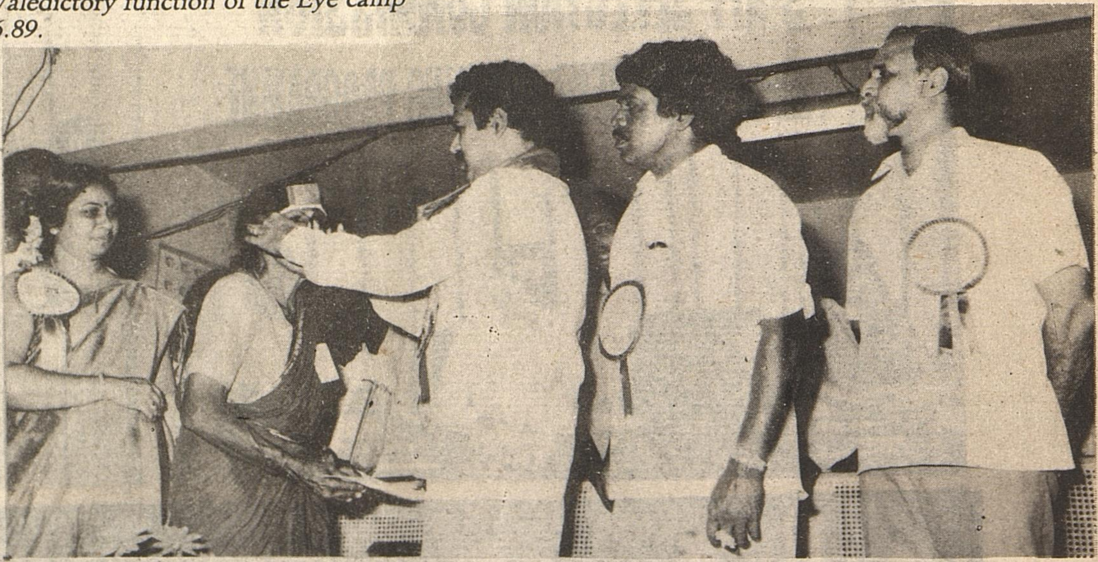
The Hon'ble Minister for Information and Labour Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam delivered special address on the occasion of the Valedictory function of the 'Training programme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes' at Madras on 16.6.'89.



The Hon'ble Rural and Local Administration Minister Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam switched on the street lights at a function at Vysarpadi, Bakthavatsalam Nagar on 4.6.89.

The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Rural Industries Department Tmt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan distributed prizes to the best students at the Anniversary celebrations of Government Girls Special/Youth Illam at Madras on 31-5-89.

Hon'ble Minister for Public Health Dr. Ponmudi distributed free spectacles at the Valedictory function of the Eye camp held at Madras on 8.6.89.



Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms Thiru S. Thangavel inspected the construction work of the proposed MMDA Iron and Steel wholesale market at Sathangodu on 31.5.'89.

# A GREAT SON OF INDIA A STRONG BELIEVER IN SECULARISM.

### Tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, on the occasion of his centenary celebration.

On 23rd June 1989 the State Government and the Nehru Centenary Celebration Committee organised a function at the SIET College to celebrate the birth centenary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

The Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Thirumathi Sheela Dikshit unveiling a portrait of Maulana described him as scholar, a powerful orator and an ardent champion of Hindu-Muslim Unity.

Thiru B.J. Sadiq Pasha, Law Minister, said the Maulana was a humanist and respector of all religions. Hindu-Muslim unity was an article of faith with him.

Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam, Minister for Information and Labour, who presided over the function, said the Maulana's services in promoting national integration would always be remembered.

Thiru N.V.N. Somu, M.P. Thirumathi Vaijayanthimala Bali, M.P. Dr. T. Kamal Sheriff, Member of the State Wakf Board, Thiru Amanullah Khan, Member of the State Wakf Board and Thiru K. Rajamanickam, Director of Information and Public Relations participated in the function.

Thiru V, Sankara Subbaiyan, Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering. Thiru P.V. Krishnamurthy, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi, proposed a vote of thanks.

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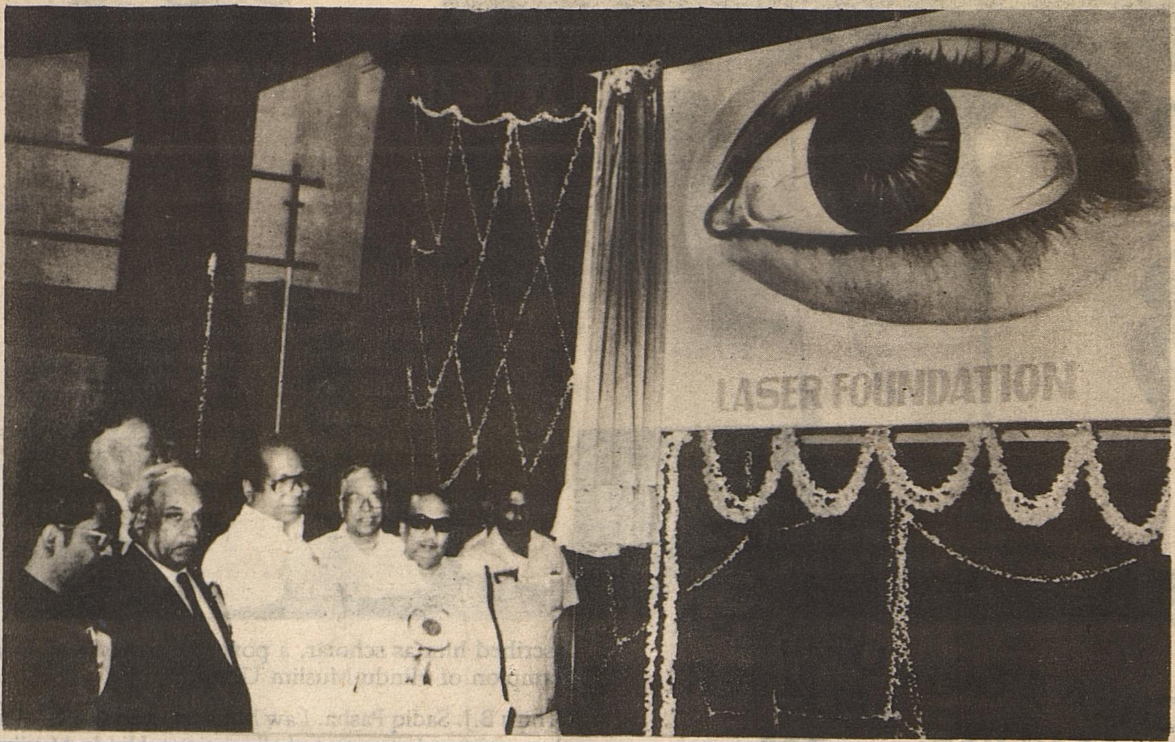
MAULANA SAHIB was an outstanding figure of great courage, fearlessness, integrity and passionate love for freedom. He has been a unique figure in our political life for nearly two generations. Even before he joined the Congress in 1920, he was a revolutionary. His political wisdom, patriotic fervour and sacrificial service were recognized early and he was made the President of the Indian National Congress in 1923, a position which he held for a number of years on different crucial occasions. His services to the country as a sagacious statesman, an ardent patriot, and a great intellectual are inestimable. He suffered for his convictions, but he never shrank from expressing his views. Among the great qualities of leadership he had, was this that he never shrank from expressing his views for fear of losing his popularity. A leader has to be firm. No man can be a leader if he does not risk unpopularity for his views. He who tries to please all ends by pleasing none.

*-Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.*

He was a peculiar and a very special representative in a high degree of that great composite culture which has gradually grown in India. I do not mean to say that everybody has to be like Maulana Azad to represent that composite culture. There are many representatives of it in various parts of India; but, he, in his own venue, here in Delhi or in Bengal or Calcutta, where he spent the greater part of his life, represented this synthesis of various cultures which have come one after another to India, rivers that had flowed in and lost themselves in the ocean of Indian life, India's humanity, affecting them, changing them and being changed themselves by them.

*-Jawaharlal Nehru.*




# Laser Treatment opened at Eye Research Centre

'LASER Treatment' and 'Vision'-two new schemes of the Eye Research Centre (ERC), Madras were inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, at a function held at Kalaivanar Arangam on June 12.

The scheme provides for free laser treatment to all patients whose income is less than Rs.300 a month and free eye examination for all on the last Sunday of each month.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said he had launched the 'restoration of eyesight' scheme in 1972 with a view to providing the weaker sections opportunities to have their eyes tested and get treatment. This scheme was now being implemented throughout the State with full vigour and during the first week of June cataract operations were performed on about 4,500 persons.

The Chief Minister said people in villages did not have the benefit of specialised treatment. He lauded the ERC's efforts in arranging free camps in villages and following up the treatment given. He appealed to accept their postings to doctors in rural areas without hesitation in the interest of the poor. He requested the ERC to publish a pamphlet in Tamil on how to prevent eye ailments and distribute it in villages.

Thiru N. Veeraswamy, Food Minister presiding, said he himself had the benefit of laser treatment and realising its usefulness had appealed to the ERC to provide this facility to the poorer sections to which the centre responded at once.

Thiru K.P. Kandaswamy, HR & CE Minister who released a souvenir, praised the services of the ERC in providing specialised treatment to the poor.

Dr. A. Kalanidhi, MP said that about 30,000 children become blind every year and to prevent this he appealed to the Chief Minister to give Vitamin A and D capsules to children in noon meals centres.

Dr. J. Agarwal, Secretary, ERC, in his report said that the centre was conducting screening camps periodically in villages within a 100 km radius and providing free treatment to those who needed it, at the hospital in Madras. He said a van donated by the ITC would be used for the eye relief schemes of the centre. A major breakthrough had been achieved by the centre through its research in the field of dry eye.

Dr. L.P. Agarwal, former Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, said the research centre had been recognised by the Central Government. A new course would be started in January next and the successful candidates would be given a Fellowship in Surgery. The ERC has given training to ophthalmic technicians and nurses and conducting workshops for doctors.

Thiru T.J. George, Governor-elect, Lions District International 324 A-1 and Dr. E.T. Selvam spoke. Thiru S. Sabherwal, General Manager, ITC handed over the keys of the van donated by ITC to the Chief Minister. Thiru Shree Parkash, President, ERC, welcomed the gathering and Thiru Bapeshwar, Vice-President, proposed a vote of thanks.

# Rs. 16 crores released for irrigation

The Tamil Nadu Government has released over Rs. *16* crores for immediate execution of works relating to major, medium and minor irrigation in the first quarter of the current year in view of the drought conditions in the State.

This was announced after a day-long meeting by the Public Works Minister Thiru Durai Murugan at the Secretariat with the Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers of his department working in the districts.

Briefing press persons, Thiru V. Sankarasubbaiyan, PWD Secretary said of this amount Rs. 13.04 crores would go for execution of irrigation project under the three heads, out of the budgetary provision of Rs. 49.28 crores for the current year, while another Rs. 3.3 crores would be spent on maintenance works from the separate budget allocation of Rs.10.15 crores made for this.

"All the Superintendent Engineers have been asked by the Minister to draw up plans and execute them before July 15 " said the PWD Secretary. They were told to identify encroachments on tank bunds and supply channels and take immediate action for eviction especially in storage areas in consultation with the Collectors.

The Superintending Engineers were instructed to form irrigation / farmers association before September in respect of 203 tanks taken up for modernisation with assistance from the European Economic Community. The Government was acting on the suggestion made by the EEC.

The associations would be in charge of operation, maintenance and management of the tanks. The associations would get assistance from the fund support made available by the Government. If this experiment proved successful, the concept would be extended for management of other tanks Thiru Sankarasubbaiyan said.

Land acquisition in respect of new projects sanctioned and being implemented was reviewed. "Arrangements are being made to appoint separate staff to attend to land acquisition so as to speed up the process", he said.

# EDUCATION IN ANCIENT TAMILNADU

## SANGAM AGE

Considering the volume of literature assignable to Sangam age it is easy to conceive that there must have been a well established system of education. The education was common to both male and female. There are number of excellent poems said to have sung not only by male poets but also by poetesses. Kakkaipadiniyar, Naccellaiyar, and the illustrious Avvaiyar were the celebrated poetesses of sangam period. Their poems are equally important as the poems sung by male poets namely Mamoolanar, Paranar, Mangudi Marudan etc. Those poets and poetesses were reverently held by the then monarchs and had even acted on the advice of these poets. Poets and poetesses had played significant role at times of war and peace. Some of the poets and poetesses were appointed as poet-laureate. Avvaiyar was the court poetess of King Atiyaman, while Mangudi Marudan was the court poet of Pandyan Neduncheliyan. It was generally held that the foremost duty of every father was to educate his son, as it was the duty of a mother to foster, of an ironsmith to manufacture weapons and of a ruler to rule the country in justice.

Though we get considerable references to poets, poetesses and a few on teacher, it is heartening to note that there is no reference about a primary school or an institution which imparted higher education either from literature or from the chronicles of foreigners who visisted Tamilnadu during the beginning of the Christian era.

## GURUKULAM

We get references on the academy of poets. In the said academy it seems that scholarly discussions were held on the poems presented newly by the poets. But it is not known how the education was imparted, either at rural level or at urban level. It is presumed that Gurukulam was the only means in those days to educate the children of all strata.

## GHATIKA (PALLAVA PERIOD)

Coming to Pallava period we hear of a Ghatika located at Kanchi where the Kadamba king Mayurasarman is said to have come along with his guru to have his higher learning. This Ghatika seems to be a centre of learning during Pallava period. It was esteemly held by the rulers as they claim that they have annexed this institution with them. Even here it is not clear on what subjects were taught in this Ghatika, who were the teachers and how many students were taught. But one thing is understood that the students from other kingdoms also came to this Ghatika to equip more knowledge. An inscription of Vaikundaperumal temple of Kanchi tells that the madyastas of Ghatikai were the personnal present when Nandivarma Pallavamalla was coronated as king of Pallava kingdom. Hence it is evident that the persons of Ghatika also had a say in the selection of persons for becoming the rulers of the kingdom. It seems that they were given this kind of respect because of their high learning.

**Natana. Kasinathan.**
*Director of Archaeology.*

Ghatika was interpreted in different meaning by different scholars. The most acceptable meaning is that it was an educational institution where the Vedas and allied subjects were taught and an intellectual examination was conducted to test the proficiency of the scholars in the Vedas by asking questions through ballot papers which were put inside a Ghata or a pot. Ghatika is also referred to in inscriptions as Ghatikasthana and Ghatikasalai.

## CHOLA INSCRIPTIONS

The chola inscriptions throw more light on the system of education prevailed in Tamilnadu from 10th to 13th Century A. D. We get solid references to the educational institution from three places namely Thirumukkudal, Ennayiram and Tirubhavani. All the three places are situated in Tondainadu, which is celebrated in a proverb that the "Tondainadu canror Udaittu". This proverb appears to be quite appropriate and convincing as this part of Tamilnadu paid more attention on the encouragement of education.

## VISHNU AND SIVA TEMPLES

Another important factor is that the above three educational institutions were invariably attached with Vishnu temples. This fact indicates that the devotees of Vishnu were more eager in learning the Vedas, Vyakaranam and Mimamsa and also the agamas of Pancharatra and Vaikanasa. Siva agamas were also imparted in these institutions. It is not known why the Siva temples did not pay their attention on the teaching of the Vedas and Agamas relating to Saivism. Perhaps they should have endeavoured in promoting Tamil literature and arranging facilities for reciting Devaram and Tiruvisaippa.

In the above vishnu temples arrangements seem to have made for reciting Tiruvaymozhi but the educational institutions attached to them had not imparted any Tamil literature. The association of a Tamil scholar with a Ghatika is known from a solitary reference of an inscription engraved on the South wall of the outer prakara of Kaccapesvarar temple at Tirukkacciyur in Chingleput District.

## KADIGAI

This epigraph records that Poyyamozhimangalam was the proprietary village of a certain Perunambi,

a descendant of Sattanar who, among the learned assembly (Kadigai) of that village was entitled Muttamilacharyar alias Tamil Karaikandavar, well versed in Tamil language. Another inscription of the same temple mentions the names of a few scholars of the Katikai who were well versed in Tamil language and literature. One of the members is called as Poyyamozhi Tamilvelan.

### VEDIC COLLEGE

It would be an absorbing interest to look into the details of the three above institutions. The vedic college at Ennayiram attached with Rajaraja Vinnagar temple stands first in the chronological order as it is known from an inscription of Rajendra I datable to the first quarter of 11th century A.D. It is known from an inscription that by the king's order 45 velis of land in Anangur alias Rajarajanallur was given to Rajaraja Vinnagar (Alagiyasinga Perumal temple) by the Mahasabha of the taniyur of Rajarajaccaturvedi mangalam (Ennayiram) for offerings, festivals, the recitation of Tiruvaymoli, the maintenance of an institution of higher learning for teaching the Vedas, Vyakaranam, Mimamsa and Vedanta.

### DECISIONS OF THE MAHASABHA

As per the details of the inscriptions the following decisions of the Mahasabha can be culled out.

(1) Four persons are to be appointed for the recitation of Tiruvaymoli hymns in the temple.

(2) Twenty five Sri-Vaishnavas are to be fed.

(3) Sixty Kalams of Paddy and three Kalanju of gold are to be deposited in order to feed one thousand Srivaishnavas and dasas (devotees).

(4) The following students studying different subjects are to be fed in the Gangaikondan mandapa.

(a) 75 studying the Rig-veda

(b) 75 studying the Yajur Veda

(c) 20 studying the Chandogasama

(d) 20 studying the Talavakara sama

(e) 20 studying the Vajasaneya

(f) 10 studying the Atharva

(g) 10 studying the Baudhayaniya Grihyakalpa and Gana

(h) 25 learning the vyakarana

(i) 35 learning the Prabhakara and

(j) 10 persons learning the Vedanta.

### APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS

Ten teachers were appointed to teach the subjects mentioned above.

Three to teach the Rig-Veda

Three to teach the Yajur Veda

One to teach the Chandoga

One to teach the Talavakara sama

One to teach the Vajasaneya

One to teach the Baudhayaniya

Grihya and Kalpa and Kathaka

In the above mentioned provisions it is conspicous that no Tamil literature was taught and no teacher was appointed to teach Tamil subjects.

### PADDY FOR MAINTENANCE OF INSTITUTIONS

The institution attached with Viranarayana Vinayagar Alwar of Tribhavani comes next. The inscription which narrates the details of the gift endowed by Senapati Mavali Vananayan for the health of king Rajendra chola, had been engraved in the thirtieth reignal year of the Rajadhiraja-I son of Rajendra chola. The date corresponds to 1048 A.D. The grant provided for the conduct of festivals, for the recitation of Thiruvaymoli and for the maintenance of a Vedic College. The details of the provision made for educational institution are as follows:-

(1) A total strength of 19 teachers to be appointed. 3 for teaching Rig veda, 3 for Yajurveda, 1 each for Chandagasama, Talavakara sama, Apurva, Vajasaneya Bodhayaniya and Styashta sutra, 1 each for expounding Vedanta, Vyakarana, Rupavatara, Ramayana,

Bharata Manusastra and Vaikhanasa sastra.

(2) A total strength of 260 students are to be admitted for studying different subjects. 60 students for Rigveda, 60 for Yajurveda, 20 for Chandogasama, 50 for other sastras and 70 for Vedanta, Vyakarana and Rupavatara.

For the annual maintenance of this institution 9525 Kalam of paddy was provided.

The third institution was located at Tirumukkudal. This is referred to in an inscription of Virarajendra written in his 6th reignal year ie. 1069 A.D. The main object of this record is to provide for the maintenance of worship to Sri Raghava Chakravartin of Venkatesa perumal temple and for the running of a Vedic College with an attached hostel and a hospital.

**PADDY GIVEN AS GIFT TO TEACHERS**

The gift consists of provisions for a teacher teaching Rig veda at the rate of 60 kalams of paddy and 4 Kasu per annum, a teacher for Yajur veda also on a similar remuneration and a Bhatta for expounding Vyakarana and Rupavatrara drawing an annual income of 120 kalams of paddy and 10 kasus. It is also known from the provisions made to the temple that ten students studied the Rig Veda, ten, the Yajur veda and twenty including certain number of Bramanas, the vyakarana and Rupavatara.

**KANDALUR**
**(Educational Institution)**

There were also some educational institutions in extreme south of Tamilnadu, one in chera country and another in Ay country. Both were identical in the system of teaching. The institution of chera country was located at Kandalur which is identified with Valiyasalai near Trivandrum. It was a famous one as it is referred to both in Tamil literature and in the inscriptions of chola period. Rajaraja, the Great boasts himself of conquering this institution in his meykirti. Few of his successors and some Pandya kings also claim that they had conquered over this. This true nature of his institution was not understood till the discovery of Partivasekarapuram copper plates. With the discovery of Partivasekarapuram grant it is known that the educational institution of Partivasekarapuram was established on the model of the institution at Kandalur. The details of the functioning of the Partivasekarapuram institution is explained in the copper plates. Hence it has become possible to presume the true nature of the institution of Kandalur also.

**KARUNANDADAKKAN**

The institution of Partivasekarapuram was established by Karunandadakkan, Ay king of Venadu on the model of the one existed at Kandalur. This institution also seems to have been attached with a Vishnu temple known as Vishnubhattaraka. The copper plate narrates that necessary provision was made to study Paviliya Charana by 45 members, Taittriya Charana by 35 members, and Talavakara by 14 members. The students to be admitted in this institution are called cattars.

Kandalur institution may also have functioned in the same line. It is possible that Kandalur institution may also have been attached with a Vishnu temple most probably with Padmanaba temple of Tiruvanandapuram.

**CONCLUSION**

It is evident from the foregoing narrations that all these institutions had imparted only the Vedic studies and were invariably attached with the Vishnu temples. As a result, it may be presumed that the Siva temples and maths attached to them may have promoted Tamil studies as we have evidences from Kaccabesvarar temple, Kanchipuram.

**Social Security Scheme for Tamil Nadu Busmen**

A social security scheme to help families of busmen dying in harness and those retiring will be introduced in all Government Transport Corporations in Tamil Nadu.

Transport Minister Thiru M. Kannappan announced this welfare measure while inaugurating a similar scheme for the workers of the Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation.

The scheme would be run by the workers for the workers. Each worker would contribute Rs. 2 and the amount would be given to the family of the deceased. A contribution of one rupee each by the employees would be given to those retiring.

Under the scheme, families of the deceased will get Rs. 18,000 besides the Rs. 20,000 given by the management under the family benefit scheme. Also, every retiring worker will get Rs. 9,000.

# BETTER MADRAS

The Association of Licenced Surveyors convened a seminar to discuss about and to solve the problems concerning the city of Madras. While addressing the gathering which consisted of eminent citizens of Madras, Thiru L.M. Menezes, Special Officer, Madras Corporation gave a real picture of the problems confronting the city.

**The low per capita Consumption of water**

He said the National Commission on Urbanisation in its report had said that most brutal and inhuman living conditions existed in Indian cities. Madras was no exception, he said adding that certain peculiar problems had aggravated this situation. The low per capita consumption of water was the root cause for poor sanitation which was compounded by malfunctioning of sewers, non access to toilet facilities and cattle menace. Unless long-term measures were taken to solve the perennial water shortage, the city problems could not be tackled effectively, he said.

Illegal construction and occupation of pavements had resulted in overcrowding and reduction of open space. Despite the Slum Clearance Board's efforts to provide tenements for slum dwellers, more and more slums had sprung up and rehabilitation was a major difficulty.

**Funds Scarcity**

Though the city was facing such enormous problems, the Corporation's budget was only Rs.50 crores a year compared to Rs.120 crores for Bangalore, Rs.1,000 crores for Delhi and Rs.1,200 crores for Bombay. Because of this resource constraint no permanent solution had been found for any of the problems Thiru. Menezes said. Businessmen and industrialists in the city should provide financial help to the Corporation to meet the people's needs, he added.

*We should kindle a fervour which will rouse the society as a whole and evoke from every one his contribution towards the shaping of a new social order.*

*-ANNA*

**Polluted Waterways**

He said the three waterways in the city had become liabilities because of their pollution. The MMDA and the Corporation have jointly undertaken research studies to find out how best the city could be managed and the infrastructure needed for its maintenance. Madras did not have a powerful citizen's group to highlight civic lapses and this was the reason why due attention was not being paid to major issues, he added.

**Funds from the Central Government not sufficient**

Thiru. V. Karthikeyan, former State Chief Secretary, who spoke on urban management said the MMDA was formed to control and monitor the development of the city. But because of the peculiar problems confronted by the city, the MMDA had been able to act only as a "regulating agency" and had not performed the overall supervisory role in the city's development.

Unlike Bombay, Delhi or Calcutta, Madras had not been able to get sufficient funds from the Central Government for its development programmes and this had aggravated the situation, he said. He suggested that the Madras Corporation float development bonds to raise funds.

**Explosion of Slum Population**

Thiru V.R. Lakshminarayanan, former Director General of Police, who inaugurated the seminar, said steps should be taken immediately to arrest the deterioration, before dreaming of better city. All the development schemes were nullified by the explosion of slum population. The formation of satellite towns had also not prevented the migration of people to the city, he said.

Thiru. Radhey Mohan Chundur, Convener, welcoming the participants, said the objective of the seminar was to draw the attention of the Government, planners and voluntary agencies to some of the major problems and find solutions.

# The annual revenue budget of The Corporation of Madras

The annual revenue budget of the Corporation of Madras for the year 1989-90 has estimated an income of Rs.58.09 crores as against Rs.53.63 crores of 1988-89 while the expenditure this year is estimated at Rs.68.85 crores as against Rs.65.54 crores of 1988-89.

(2) The Capital budget is projected for Rs.13.63 crores.

(3) Separate budget for Elementary Education is prepared as per the provisions of the Elementary Education Act. The income for Elementary Education Budget is estimated at Rs. 10.91 crores while the expenditure at Rs. 14.96 crores.

(4) Property Tax and assigned revenue constitute major portion of income to the Corporation. A sum of Rs. 19.74 crores towards property tax and Rs. 23.81 crores towards assigned revenue is expected to be realised during the year.

(5) Corporation looks upon the Government for meeting the expenditure on capital projects and devlopment schemes due to its poor resource base. The Government provide financial assistance in the form of loans and grants for the Corporation for the purpose.

(6) Under Part-I proposals, the Government have provided financial assistance to the Corporation for Rs. 3.83 crores for the following ongoing capital projects.

| | | *Rs. in crores* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Roads, S.W.D.C., Street Lighting, etc. | 3.00 |
| (ii) | Anderson Bridge, Kelleys Bridges reconstruction | 0.55 |
| (iii) | Construction of markets/stalls | 0.20 |
| (iv) | Purchase of compactor | 0.08 |
| | Total | 3.83 |

(7) Apart from the above, in order to improve the Private Streets, Slums, Street lighting system in erstwhile Panchayats added to the Corporation and for provision of sodium vapour lamps in 50 important junctions, a scheme for an ultimate cost of Rs. 12 crores has been drawn up and Government have cleared the project under their Part-II Scheme for the year. The financial assistance for Rs. 1.05 crores has been provided by the Government for the above project during this year.

(8) Government have also provided financial assistance for implementing certain development schemes of special nature for the city improvement for an overall outlay of Rs. 20 crores as a part of manifesto schemes against which Rs. 6 crores is provided for this Corporation for taking up the schemes during the year. The schemes envisage the following areas of development.

| | | *Rs. in lakhs provision 1989-90* |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Roads | 250.00 |
| (2) | Private Streets | 25.00 |
| (3) | Slums | 50.00 |
| (4) | Street lights | 100.00 |
| (5) | Conservancy | 50.00 |
| (6) | Public Health | 50.00 |
| (7) | Parks and Play fields | 25.00 |
| (8) | Public conveniences | 50.00 |
| | Total | 600.00 |

(9) The Corporation has also programmed to take up some more development schemes for City improvement under T.N.U.D.P. and these are under active consideration.

(10) Among major schemes of the Corporation, the construction of Lily Pond Complex for rehabilitation of displaced Moore Market vendors and the widening of Anderson and Kelleys Bridges under progress and are likely to be completed by the end of the year.

## New Farm College in Lalgudi village

Kumulur, a village in Lalgudi taluk, around 30 km from Tiruchi, has been chosen for location of an Agricultural College. It will be formally inaugurated in the first week of August, the Chief Minister, Dr.M. Karunanidhi said on 11th June. He was inaugurating Asian deep litter penning for goats on a private farm at Pallapatti, 35 km from Karur.

The intake in this college would be 50. Classes would be started either in a rented building in the village or in a cluster of "kudils" put up on an open site, where the hostel could also be set up.

The Chief Minister also announced that the seats now being allotted to students from the families of peasants and agriculturists in farm colleges would be more than doubled from this academic year. In B.Sc. Agriculture, the seats for them would be increased from 20 to 40, in B.V.Sc. from 10 to 20, in B.E., Agricultural Engineering from 5 to 10, in B.Sc.Horticulture from 5 to 15 and in B.Sc. Fisheries from 5 to 7.

# ADAYAR'S BANYAN TREE

*What happended to thee*
*Adayar's fabulous banyan tree?*
*Were you so old to die?*
*No, it can't be that!*
*It was nature's naughty mood*
*That brought you down for a kiss so rude!*
*A cynosure of the touring guys*
*A splendid feast to their curious eyes!*
*Will you tell me secretly*
*What happened to your Majesty?*

*With tiny leaves as shelter green*
*You shielded us from the scorching sun!*
*Props that grew around your trunk*
*Supported your branches all along!*
*Stood they as immortal pillars*
*For past three hundred odd years!*
*You have stoutly faced many a gusting gale*
*Never we could dream of this tragic fall!*
*Will you tell me secretly*
*What happened to your Majesty?*

*Glad to see you are planted again*
*Erstwhile splendour you've to regain!*
*Congrats for your dramatic comeback*
*See, fallen men can never come back!*
*May we bless you with long lease of life*
*Stand erect for centuries to come!*
*As a monument now you stand*
*Preaching dauntless will to us, the mankind!*
*What happened to thee, my Lord*
*Should not come again! We can't bear!*

**M.S. Venkatachalam** M.A., B.L.,
Trichy

## Government Institutes New Awards for Tamil Films

The Tamil Nadu Government has instituted cash awards for three best Tamil films produced during 1988 and also medallions to the best artistes.

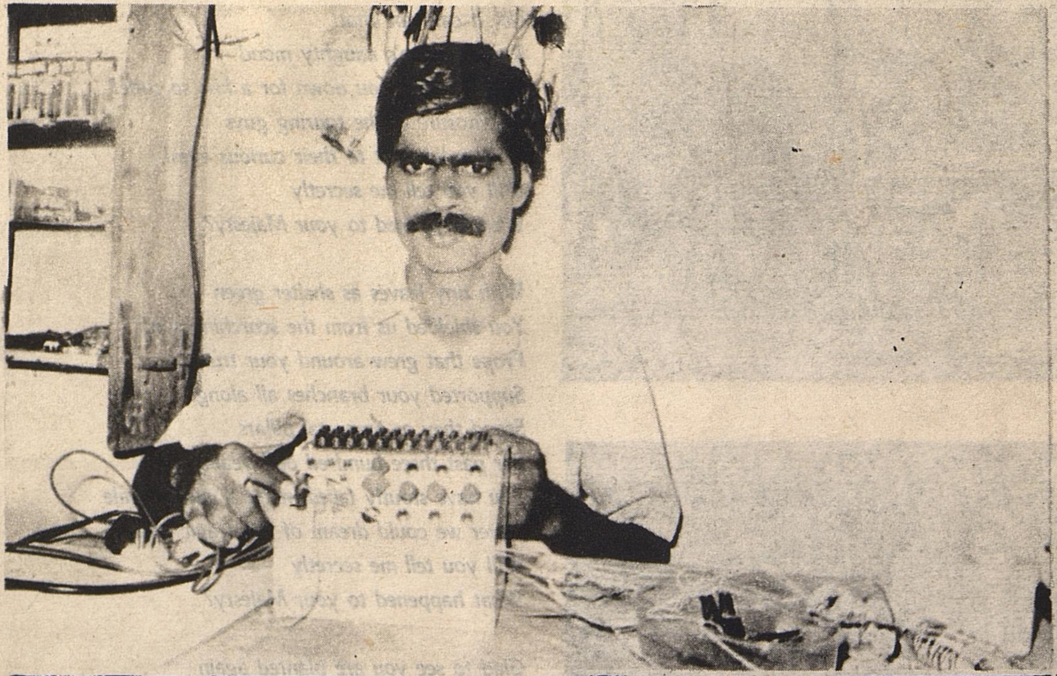
The first prize for the best feature film will comprise a cash award of Rs.one lakh and a shield, while the second and third prize winners will be given Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000 in addition to shields.

Gold medals weighing five sovereigns each will be presented to the best actor, best actress, best director, best playwright, best script writer and best music director. Three sovereign gold medals will be given to the best lyricist, best playback singer (both male and famale) and best cameraman. Two special medals (three sovereigns) will be awarded to an actor and an actress.

Three experts in the cine field will get medallions (five sovereigns) named after Raja Sando, N.S. Krishnan and MGR.

The Government has constituted a 13-member committee headed by Thiru Justice S. Mohan, to choose the award winners for 1988. Similar awards will be presented every year for films released between January and December.

The Tamil Film Chamber of Commerce has welcomed the Chief Minister's decision to give awards for the best films produced during 1988 and to the artistes.



## From Darkness unto Light

**Blind inventor, A. Kalanethi seen with the pump-set Logic Controller he has devised. An aid to farmers, the invention automatically switches a pump on or off depending on the water level in the field, saving on water, power, and engine wear - and - Tear.**

**Born blind, Kalanethi is a Post Graduate in Political Science and a graduate in law.**

**His hobby is to develop new electronic devices and he has three inventions to his credit.**

**The Tamil Nadu Jaycees and Indian Jaycees have recognised and awarded as outstanding young person of the year 1987 at State and National levels.**

**He can not see light but he is one of the torch bearers in the field of electronics.**

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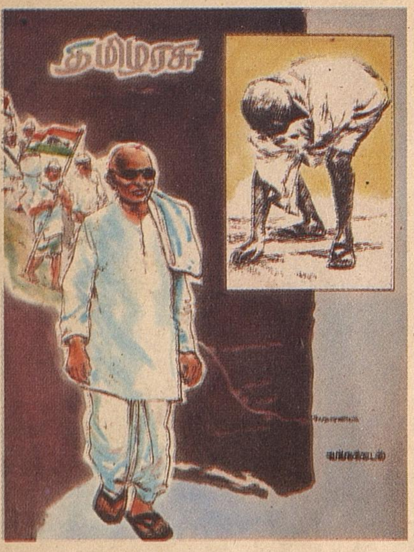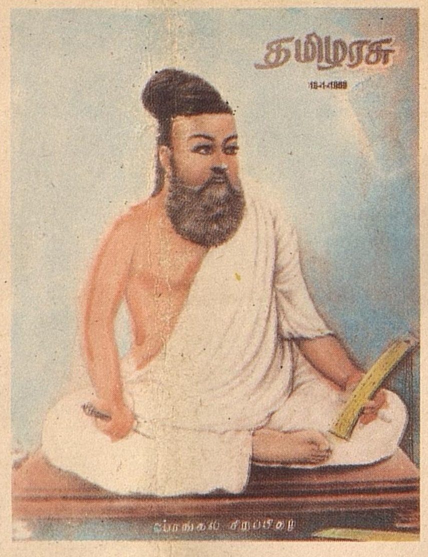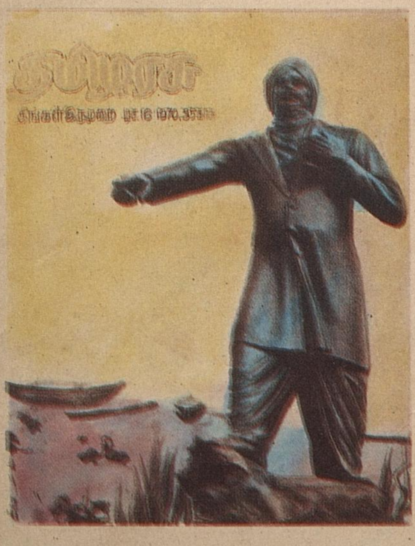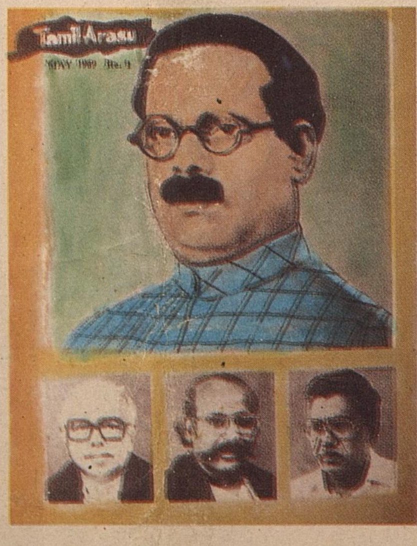
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